

THE TIMES

TOMORROW

Geni... Life and Times of Michael K. exclusive extracts from J. M. Coetzee's novel, winner of the Booker Prize



stones... Marcel Berlins on the move to revitalize Victorian churchyards
Emerald... From Dublin to Connemara: a journey around Ireland
Greecian... Peter Nichols' 'The Greek'...
... earn... Family Money on how banks are profiting from small businesses

Revolt by Tories at Strasbourg

A group of British Conservative MEPs defied pressure from Downing Street to vote for a freeze on the payment of the £450m British EEC budget rebate for this year. The Strasbourg Parliament voted by 262 to 56 to delay payment to Britain. Page 5

Nato arms cut

The Nato nuclear planning group, meeting in Montebello, Quebec, decided to reduce Nato's nuclear arsenal in Europe by 1,400 warheads over the next four to six years. Earlier report, page 6

Buoyant ICI

ICI reported better-than-average pre-tax profits of £445m for the first nine months of the year, compared with £203m for the same period last year. Pages 13, 16

Pit action

A national overtime ban by miners is to go ahead from Monday in pursuit of a pay claim, after the collapse of peace talks. Page 2

Evans claim

Mr Harold Evans has alleged in his book that Mr Rupert Murdoch approached the Prime Minister in an attempt to oust him as editor of *The Times*. Page 2

Cable sell off

The Government plans to sell half of its 45 per cent stake in Cable & Wireless, the telecommunications group, to help it meet the Treasury's asset sale target of £1,250m. Page 13

Nilsen trial

Dennis Nilsen, who denies six charges of murder and two of attempted murder, delighted in wielding the power of life and death over his victims, the Central Criminal Court was told. Page 3

Boycott affair

Geoffrey Boycott's fervent supporters among Yorkshire Cricket Club members could be doing him a profound disservice, David Miller suggests. Page 20

Leader page 11

Letters: On Grenada, from Mr S A Fowler, and others; Inland Revenue despair, from Mr A M G Christopher. Leading articles: Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, Russian missile warning, Innocent third parties. Features, pages 8-10. Bernard Levin on the David Owen Centenary controversy; Ed Mirvish's Old Vic gamble; a Soviet resurgence of antisemitism; David Watt on the Caribbean power vacuum. Spectrum: Old Masters on the move. Friday Page: Dora Russell, veteran feminist. Oxford, a two-page Special Report, pages 18, 19. Obituary, page 12. Signor Rodolfo Siviero, Mr E. H. Goddard. Business Horizons, a new weekly feature which every Friday will explore the small business scene, today looks at Government plans for local enterprise agencies, the future of the Loans Guarantee Scheme and the launching of a research unit. Page 17

Home News	2-4	Motoring	23
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The toll: 8 Americans dead, 8 missing and 39 wounded; 100 Cubans dead and 600 captured

Grenada resistance overcome after three days' fighting

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Organized resistance by Cubans and Grenadians against the 3,000-strong American-Caribbean invasion force ended yesterday when US troops captured Richmond Hill Prison, the last main stronghold on Grenada.

They were also reported to have captured Fort Frederick, a barracks north-west of St George's.

The Reagan Administration said that although pockets of resistance remained on the island, it was hoped all resistance would have ended by nightfall.

The prison, about a mile east of the capital, had been heavily defended by a detachment of Cuban soldiers. American forces had not used heavy weapons against the Cubans for fear of harming political prisoners being held there.

As the fighting drew to a close the Pentagon announced that eight American servicemen had been killed since the troops landed on Tuesday morning. Eight more were missing and 39 had been wounded. It was feared that the death toll would increase before the operation ended.

The Pentagon also disclosed that a second large cache of Cuban weapons have been captured near Point Salines airport, in the south of the island, where most of the 600 Cuban prisoners taken by the Americans had been captured.

According to an Administration official, who briefed

Parliament

UN outrage

Scorn returns

Missing texts

Letters

Frank Johnson

journalists on condition that his name was not revealed, the invasion had forestalled a big Cuban build-up on the island.

A high-level military delegation had arrived in Grenada on Monday, similar to those Cuba had sent to Angola before it began its military build-up there several years ago.

This had raised concern in Washington that a major Cuban deployment in Grenada was imminent. As it turned out, as many as two battalions of Cubans had put up stiff resistance against the invading

force, inflicting much heavier casualties on the Americans than had been expected and turning what had been hoped to be a swift, surgical operation into a bloody fight lasting three days.

The Americans had to bring in a battalion of paratroops to bolster the original invasion force of 1,900 Marines and Rangers and 300 Caribbean troops.

As the invasion force was mopping up, more American and other foreign civilians were being evacuated to the US on C-141 aircraft. Almost 400 had been moved to an air force base in Charleston, South Carolina, by this morning. Most were Americans, but there were also several Britons and West Germans.

The US had cited the safety of about 1,000 Americans in Grenada as being one of the main reasons for launching the invasion in the first place. US officials said their lives could have been in danger because of the anarchy and violence which had gripped the island since the bloody takeover by the Marxist Revolutionary Military Council earlier this month.

Continued on back page, col 3

Cuba plays down the rhetoric

From Richard Williams, Havana

The Cuban Government yesterday indicated its acceptance of the offers from Colombia and Spain to repatriate the Cubans captured on Grenada.

Cuba's official radio news station described the offer as "an honourable move", but no details were given of when or how the repatriation will be carried out.

In Havana yesterday officials from the US Interest Section, a quasi-embassy operating from the Swiss Embassy, could be seen standing outside their heavily guarded offices, after a reported bomb threat.

Although there is a general sense of outrage in Cuba over the recent events in Grenada, observers suggest that the rhetoric has been muted to let the Government be seen by the world as the injured party in the affair.

"Castro wants to be seen as sensible and responsible," one observer noted. "The rhetoric won't begin to fly until the prisoners are back home."

The public meetings and marches yesterday morning were inspired by President Castro's midnight speeches on television and later intensified by midday announcements on Cuban radio and television that the resistance was over, and that every Cuban on Grenada had been killed by the American invaders.

Clearly audible on Miami Radio, meanwhile, was the press conference in which Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Secretary of State, announced the capture of 600 Cuban prisoners in Grenada.

The news that three US helicopters had been destroyed was received by Cubans with grim satisfaction, while the Cuban announcement was never retracted. Later, however, it was modified more or less in line with the US figures for those dead and captured.

In the late afternoon, thousands of Havana residents converged on the residential Vedado district, where many celebrated speeches have been made, including one by President Castro a few days before the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961. Spotlights, a dais and loudspeakers had been set up. The microphone was open to anyone who cared to join the queue behind it.

Tory gloom grows over invasion

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Conservative Party's unhappiness over the Government's attitude to the invasion appeared to be growing yesterday and showed itself in two minor acts of rebellion.

A motion explicitly approving the intervention by the United States and its Caribbean partners, and by implication criticizing the Government, was tabled in the Commons, with two former ministers, Mr Geoffrey Rippon and Mr Howell, among the sponsors.

And at a closed meeting of the backbench 1922 Committee, the Government was accused by Sir Hugh Fraser, another former minister, of being politically inept in deciding to hold a debate next Monday on the deployment of cruise and Pershing 2 missiles.

Sir Hugh and others recognized that the debate was necessary but thought it foolish of ministers to choose a time of increasing mistrust over the United States.

Earlier, at question time in the Commons, Mrs Thatcher had done something to restore the party's morale, thanks to Mr Neil Kinnock, the leader of the Opposition, who provoked her into paying a warm tribute to the United States.

Many Conservative MPs seem at a loss to decide whether the American action in Grenada was justified and Britain should have taken part. Those with firm opinions are in total disagreement. What has united them this week is the belief that Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign

Secretary, himself lacked conviction and the fear that the Government as a whole had no clear policy or sense of direction.

But they have also been united by a growing fear that, whatever the outcome of Grenada, grave damage may have been done to the Anglo-American alliance. So when Mr Kinnock asked Mrs Thatcher what obligations she now felt to Mr Reagan, there was raucous Conservative cheering as she replied: "The obligations of a very close ally without whose support freedom and justice in Europe would be in doubt."

Mr Kinnock, unabashed, suggested that the special relationship had turned out to be not so special and invited the Prime Minister, "in the chaos and humiliation of the Grenada affair", to demonstrate greater independence in furthering British interests.

Mrs Thatcher replied that the two nations were friends, and it would hardly be friendship unless one country could advise another and have it accepted or rejected. Her robustness encouraged those of her supporters who believe Britain should have committed troops.

The trouble at the 1922 Committee meeting was aggravated when Mr Douglas Hogg, a junior Whip, instead of promising to report the party's criticism to his chief, started ill-advisedly to lecture his senior colleagues on the need for loyalty.

Some MPs opposed the change arguing that the chief whip should be allowed to pick a team with which he could happily work.

The decision was one of several key measures agreed by the PLP yesterday on its structure and working methods, aimed at making it a more effective organization in Parliament.

It agreed to cut drastically the number of front bench spokesmen in the Commons. As a result Mr Neil Kinnock will have a front-bench team comprising no more than one fifth (about 42) of the total number of Labour MPs. At present there are 76 Opposition spokesmen.

The change is one of many aimed at increasing in importance the role of backbenchers. The PLP is to set up a new structure of 14 departmental committees to shadow government departments and the respective select committees.



Royal tackle: Prince Edward (top) after being knocked to the ground during the university rugby match yesterday with St John's and (below) being carried off the field by his Jesus College team mates. (Photographs: Michael Manal)

US rejects Andropov arms offer

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The State Department reacted strongly yesterday to the latest arms reduction offer from President Yuri Andropov, describing it as a new Soviet move to split the allies at a critical stage when the United States was preparing to deploy new missiles in Europe.

A State Department spokesman said the new offer had "critical shortcomings" for which the United States would seek additional clarification when it was presented formally in Geneva.

Continued on back page, col 4

Cabinet to hold back public spending at least until 1987

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

that it coincides with the ending of the Government's firm commitment to increase defence spending by 3 per cent a year in real terms - a pledge which expires in 1986.

Planned defence expenditure for 1985-86 is £18,330m and a 3 per cent real increase would necessarily entail significant compensatory cuts in other programmes if Mr Rees is to keep the lid on overall spending.

Even if the Nato target is dropped, as expected, the Treasury could well have difficulty in living up to the new target, unless, as hoped, the economy breaks out of recession and pressure is taken off

the social security and industrial support budgets.

The current spending White Paper gives a spending target of £126,370m for next year - the subject of the current expenditure review - and of £132,260m for 1985-86; an increase of 4.7 per cent between the two years.

That compares with a peak actual increase of 20.6 per cent between 1979-80 and 1980-81.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, said in the Commons yesterday that the Treasury expected still lower inflation next year and it is therefore entirely possible that the increase for 1986-87 could be of the order of 4 per cent.

Several candidates in the field

Labour to choose deputy chief whip by election

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Labour MPs decided yesterday that they should elect their deputy chief whip, depriving Mr Michael Cocks, who has just been re-elected as chief whip, of the right of appointing a number two of his own choice.

A contest for the post, which carries a salary of £22,910 inclusive of the MP's pay, was being arranged last night. It was expected that some of the candidates beaten by Mr Cocks, such as Mr John Evans, who came second on the third and final ballot, and Mr Terry Davis, who withdrew after the second, would be in the field.

In the past the chief whip has always appointed his deputy, after consultation with the party leader, but at a special meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party yesterday MPs agreed by a majority of more than two to one that the post should now be filled by election.

Some MPs opposed the change arguing that the chief whip should be allowed to pick a team with which he could happily work.

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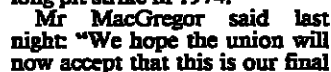
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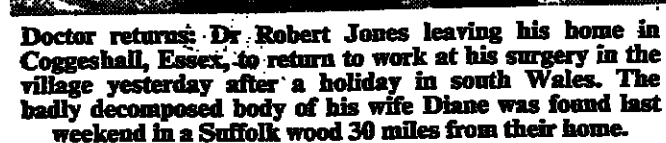
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colliery. The result will be put before a meeting of the Yorkshire area council of the NIM.



That would produce a new computer architecture, capable of running at hundreds or even

He also accused Mr John Biffen, the Leader of the House of Commons and Secretary of State for Trade when Mr Murdoch's News International took over the Times Newspapers titles, of misleading the Commons over the details of the takeover.

Mr Biffen said: "I gather that I am in some ways a central figure in this detestable drama concerning *The Times* newspaper. I am afraid that I cannot offer any guarantee of government time for a debate, but will look at the point."

Parliamentary report, page 4

An official at Sandwell District General Hospital, West Midlands, said: "We are obviously pursuing this allegation

the beginning of the month showed there were 66,000 school-leavers waiting for a YTS offer.

Britain produced the cheapest deep-mined coal in either east or west Europe and he blamed

The association says it

e health service

Cuts

An official at Sandwell District General Hospital, West Midlands, said: "We are obviously pursuing this allegation

The Woolwich view is supported by the Halifax, the largest building society.

Mr Edward Maclellan, a consultant surgeon whose home overlooks the site, said: "There

only by explaining the process by which health authorities, in their attempts to save money, arrive at their decisions. This was in a fairly typical example

Mrs Margaret O'Neill, aged 32, died a few days before the trial, but her statement to the police describing how she was

Mr Roy Amlot, for the prosecution, said they went to her home in Northwood, north London, where Barry smoked

for £1,500

man found on Irish border

were declared winners by

Korchnoi.

contrast, it was a day for

Otherwise the high prices

lected by Mr Louis Bamberger

Tunisia Din 0.700; USA \$1.60; Yugoslavia
Din 1.00

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Death blaze factory was not inspected, fire prevention officers say

By Thomson Prentice

The five women who died in a clothing factory fire in east London on Wednesday, worked in premises which had not been visited by fire prevention officers or factory inspectors, it emerged yesterday.

As forensic scientists sifted the rubble of the dresswear company for evidence indicating the cause of the fire, it became clear that neither the factory inspectors nor the London Fire Brigade had been told that the premises were being used as a factory. The Greater London Council were also unaware of their use.

Mr Michael Doherty, the head of the fire prevention branch of London Fire Brigade, said last night: "We hope the GLC will prosecute this case with some vigour if there were breaches in the law. The law says it is the duty of the occupier or owner to apply to the fire authority for a fire certificate."

"We had no record of these premises. As far as we were aware, it was a shop with dwellings on the upper floors."

The factory inspector said: "The premises should have been registered with us by law, but they were not. We do have problems with the rag trade because there tends to be a high turnover of ownership. This case appears to represent a breach of the Health and Safety at Work Act."

The factory, DK Netaware, of Mile End Road, was owned by members of an Indian family, including Mr Gurdev Singh. The dead women had not all been named last night but they were understood all to be Indians, some of whom might have been related to Mr Singh.

Mr Neta Gurmit Singh said that he started the business making skirts and slacks, in

Woolwich in 1968 and moved to Mile End Road in 1973. He said that Mr Gurdev Singh became a partner in 1974. Mr Neta Gurmit Singh said he had sold out in 1980.

"It was a good safe factory," Mr Neta Gurmit Singh said. There were three windows on the first floor at the rear, two of them with bars, and one without. The front windows had burglar-proof bars but they were of a type easily broken. The stairs were repaired four years ago.

The premises are on the first and second floors of a building which is occupied on the ground floor by a betting shop. Seven women escaped from the factory, two of them with injuries, through the unbarred rear window on the first floor.

The police said that there was no immediate evidence of arson on the premises, but forensic examinations were being carried out to provide evidence for an inquest.

The factory inspector said

that such clothing factory premises were not considered high risks. "They do not contain dangerous or unguarded machines," she said. "It may be that owners of such premises may be ignorant of the law regarding registering with us."

But last night Mr Gurdev Singh was reported as saying that the premises were regularly inspected by fire officers. They came every three months, he said, and the last visit was "one or two months ago" when he had paid a fee of £11. He said that there were two large fire extinguishers in the factory and two emergency windows which led to an external fire escape, and which were not locked.

However, the fire prevention branch of London Fire Brigade was adamant last night that it had not visited the premises. A senior officer said: "There is no doubt in our minds about it. We have no file on this building at all. From our point of view we knew nothing about it until we attended the fire."

"We do not charge any fee for our inspections and we do not make them on a quarterly basis. I can only suggest that the person has confused us with representatives of a fire extinguisher company who may have called on him. Some of these representatives wear uniforms and that may be where the confusion has arisen. But whoever called were not fire prevention officers."

The company, he said, was called DKG Netaware Manu-

facturing, whose chairman was named as Mr Mahkan Singh Rao, of Tolworth, Surrey, and one of the directors was named as Mr Gurdev Singh, of Gravesend, Kent.

Two of the victims were identified last night as sisters, Bakhsho and Vidya Kaur, also of Gravesend.

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Ford faces pressure to restore bonuses

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Mr Sam Toy, chairman of Ford in Britain, is coming under pressure from his dealers to restore bonuses and incentive payments because they are paying the price war to rivals who have rejected his offer of a "discount trace".

On September 5 Mr Toy surprised the industry by withdrawing factory support to dealers and appealing to competitors to follow his lead "back to more sensible trading practices". He said he would reconsider his action in two months, depending on what response he got.

Not a single manufacturer took up his offer. They pointed out that Ford was continuing factory support for fleet sales, which accounted for more than half its turnover. Vauxhall welcomed Mr Toy's initiative at the time but within days has stepped up its own incentive payments, a move which Mr Toy's colleagues said infuriated him.

Ford is particularly sensitive to Vauxhall's continuing recovery because Vauxhall is part of the huge General Motors empire and capable of calling on substantial reserves to achieve its declared aim of ousting Ford from market leadership in Britain.

With Vauxhall paying its dealers £135 for every Cavalier and Astra they sell and up to £300 a car on fleet sales, Ford dealers have been forced to carry the cost of competitive price cuts from their own profits. In many cases they are forgoing ten per cent of their permitted margin of between 14 and 17 per cent on sales, to cut the price of Granadas, Capris, Sierras and Escorts.

At least one dealer has been advertising the new Orion at 10 per cent below recommended retail prices, although it was launched only last month. Ford insists this is an isolated case.



Gardens plundered

Visitors to the gardens of historic houses are stealing so many plants that owners are hiding rare specimens out of public view, it is claimed.

The Marquis of Salisbury says visitors to his gardens at Cranborne in North Dorset and Hatfield, Hertfordshire, are taking as many as 40 or 50 cuttings away with them.

"And on one unforgettable occasion, a man, having taken as many as he could carry, was seen depositing them in his car and returning for more."

Lord Salisbury, says in *Popular Gardening* magazine: "The plants taken are often either rare or uncommon"

Play continues: A child riding a scooter past the Princess of Wales and Mrs Gloria Cameron (left), the director of the £167,000 West Indian Parents' Family Centre, which the Princess officially opened yesterday in Brixton, south-west London where Njoki Kariuki, aged four, who sang for the Princess, taught her how to dance the calypso.

School aims to prevent broken marriages

Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

A boys public school in Northamptonshire is to examine the question of teaching pupils how to have good relationships in order to try to prevent broken marriages later in their lives.

The two-year project, which begins at Oundle School in January, is being undertaken by the Marriage Research Centre based at the Central Middlesex Hospital in London. Its first task is to look at how the Oundle boys view friendship and relationships.

Mr Barry Trapnell, the headmaster, said: "We have to find out how the adolescent ticks over and only then can we think in terms of educating their humanity." Once the two-year research into the boys' attitudes is complete, the centre and the school feel that they will be in a better position to begin a programme in relationship education.

"There is something of a crisis in our society at the moment", Mr Trapnell said. "I would have thought most schools would like to do something to help their pupils achieve a stable marriage relationship." At present schools did nothing, except perhaps some sex education.

This week Oundle will be appointing a research/education officer to explore the growth of social, emotional and personal needs in the pupils and to assist them with appropriate discussion and education in these areas."

Mr Trapnell said he thought that the 750 boarders would take the news of the appointment fairly well.

The idea has been greeted by some interest and some scepticism by other public school heads.

Fewer than 10 per cent of Oundle pupils come from broken homes, compared with a national average of one third.

Doctor tells jury of Nilsen's false-self

By David Nicholson-Lord

Dennis Nilsen, who has admitted to the police killing 15 or 16 men and dismembering, boiling and burning their bodies, delighted in wielding the power of life and death over his victims, a jury at the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

consultant psychiatrist called by the defence said Mr Nilsen, who denies six counts of murder and two of attempted murder, treated people like objects and described his own behaviour as God-like. This explained why many of his young homosexual victims escaped unharm.

Dr James MacKeith said Mr Nilsen's "reprieve" of some of his victims, in some cases when he thought he had killed them, amounted to a case of "the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away".

"He may have been more concerned about power over life and death than a simple attempt to kill," Dr MacKeith added.

A second psychiatrist called by the defence agreed with Dr MacKeith that Mr Nilsen's responsibility for his crimes was diminished by a severe personality disorder in which paranoid and schizoid tendencies were kept in unstable equilibrium by a "false-self personality".

Dr Patrick Galloway, adviser in forensic psychiatry to the South-west Thames Regional Health Authority, said that Mr Nilsen was under enormous pressure which would periodically erupt into "outbursts of irrational violence, often with bizarre or quasi-sexual features, always apparently motiveless".

Dr Galloway also said that at other times Mr Nilsen was able to function completely normally so that the breakdowns

made no sense in terms of his ordinary personality. He told the court he had made a special study of the type of false-self syndrome displayed by Mr Nilsen.

The defence is arguing that Mr Nilsen, aged 37, of Cranley Gardens, Muswell Hill, north London, should be convicted only of manslaughter on the grounds of mental abnormality.

Dr MacKeith, a former Broadmoor consultant and adviser in forensic psychiatry to the South-east Thames Regional Health Authority, earlier described Mr Nilsen as "consistently inconsistent", adding: "Indeed Mr Nilsen is concerned to minimize the extent to which he is seen as mentally abnormal or mad."

The two psychiatrists disagreed over whether Mr Nilsen suffered from mental abnormality, part of the legal basis for diminished responsibility. Dr Galloway said he did suffer from it. Dr MacKeith said he was unqualified to judge because it was a legal, not a medical, term.

Nilsen himself admitted he was responsible for the killings, the court was told. In reports prepared for psychiatrists, according to Mr Green, he had written: "I have an overwhelming desire to kill... but the strong moral side of my character should have produced the power to resist. I cannot allow the buck to travel outside my responsibility... I deserve punishment for their deaths".

He said his victims would forgive him when they lay at peace and of his last victim, Stephen Sinclair, aged 20, he wrote: "I visualized my body and Stephen's lying dead on the mortuary slab together."

The hearing continues today.

Police pay van death damages

Merseyside police force has paid "substantial" damages to the mother of David Moore, a partially disabled man, killed by a speeding police van during the Toxteth riots in July 1981.

Mrs Agnes Moore, aged 55, a widow of Avondale Road, Wavertree, brought a claim for damages against two police officers and Mr Kenneth Oxford, the chief constable of Merseyside. Yesterday, it was disclosed that Mrs Moore had accepted an undisclosed amount in an out-of-court settlement.

Businessman is bailed

The former managing director of a City of London based company, Imperial Commodities, Mr Charles Grey Justin Frewen, was further remanded on bail until November 1 by Guildhall magistrates yesterday. Mr Frewen, aged 24, of Coniger Road, Fulham, is charged with fraudulent trading, dishonestly obtaining a cheque, and dishonestly obtaining £30,000 by telegraphic transfer.

The conditions of his bail are that he lives at his address, reports daily to police, and surrenders his passport. There are two sureties of £25,000 and £20,000.

Peer's divorce action listed

Divorce proceedings between Lord and Lady Northampton have been announced in the latest list of special procedure actions to be heard in London soon.

Lord Northampton, aged 37, whose home is at Compton Wynnyates, Warwickshire, married his third wife, a sister-in-law of Lord Portlinton, in 1977. They have a daughter aged two.

Remission lost

Charles Richardson, the former South London gang leader, has been sentenced to 14 days' loss of remission after returning more than 11 hours late from a weekend's home leave from Coldingley prison in Surrey.

Pill study after rise in liver cancer in women

A new study is being mounted in Britain to find out whether women on the pill run an increased risk of liver cancer.

The move comes after the finding by a team of researchers under Professor Sir Richard Doll at Oxford that the number of cases of liver cancer has been increasing slightly in women, but not in men.

Many factors could explain the rise, and investigators at the

Imperial Cancer Research Fund's epidemiology unit, want to establish whether the pill is responsible.

Dr David Foreman, coordinator of the new study, said it was hoped to look at 100 women under 45 who had had liver cancer in England and Wales over the past three years.

They would be compared with a "control group" of healthy women.

Literacy 'falling' among office staff

Standards of spelling, arithmetic and typing among Britain's office workers have slumped in the past 10 years according to a survey of office managers. They blame the education system and new aids, such as calculators, on which workers increasingly rely.

The findings were published yesterday in a report from the Alfred Marks Bureau, a leading office staff agency. The 281 office managers questioned about the quality of staff over the past 10 years thought general standards had risen because of the greater choice of recruits during the recession, but levels of numeracy and literacy had fallen sharply.

Only 15 per cent thought standards of numeracy had improved since 1973, while 56 per cent thought they had declined. Only 11 per cent thought literacy had improved, while 63 per cent reported a drop.

The managers also said typing skills, accuracy, and telephone manners, had all deteriorated.

Asked what could be done, most managers called for more emphasis on the three Rs at school. One said: "I have a 17-year-old nephew who has just passed nine O levels and he cannot spell. I find this appalling. I see no point in teaching students psychology

and social studies before they can write and speak English satisfactorily."

As well as familiar targets such as teachers and comprehensive education, some managers also blamed new technology. One said: "Many people are numerate when using a calculator but are unsure of the basic methods behind calculations."

The survey conflicts with the findings of the Cockcroft report on mathematics, published last year, which concluded that with two exceptions, employers of engineering apprentices and employers in the retail trades, there was little real dissatisfaction among employers

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doubt at all about its safety - don't take chances. Fill in the coupon or call the gas people (we're in your telephone book under 'GAS') and ask for a Gas Fire Safety Check. Your local Gas showroom can also arrange this for you.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

Beirut forces to stay but France and US split over long-term policies

The multinational force in Beirut will stay, Foreign Ministers of the four peacekeeping nations insisted in Paris yesterday. But there were sharp policy differences between France and the United States.

At a three-hour meeting in the Chateau de La Celle St Cloud on the outskirts of Paris, the ministers from Britain, the United States, France and Italy agreed not to change the size of the 5,800-strong force, or the scope and nature of its activities, which are restricted to Beirut and its immediate surroundings.

The force should continue to help create the necessary conditions for peace. Ministers refused to say how long that would take. No time limit had been imposed on the force's presence in Beirut, they insisted.

The French proposal for a new United Nations force to patrol the most sensitive zones in Lebanon was discussed but then dismissed as not really feasible.

Much time was spent on the vital question of "where do we go from here?", but ministers again refused to comment on what conclusions they had drawn, other than that the multinational force should remain and that everything should be done to ensure that

From Diana Geddes, Paris

all the Lebanese factions participate in the efforts to achieve reconciliation and peace.

The importance of reuniting the country was also emphasized; there is no question of partition. Speaking on behalf of all four ministers, M Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, said: "The unity of Lebanon is the essential condition for the withdrawal of all foreign forces and for the support of neighbouring countries."

He called on the international community to play an increased role in the future of Lebanon, particularly in its reconstruction. The ministers expressed concern during the meeting over the lack of effective coordination of the large amount of foreign aid flowing into the country.

At separate press briefings later, American officials said they had been delighted by the sharing of views and the good atmosphere. However, M Cheysson said there had been marked differences between France and the United States on both the "latitude of intervention" of the multinational force and Middle East policies in general.

"The US thinks you can reply by fire even if you are not attacked," he said. "We only reply if attacked." America had

also disagreed with the European view that the Palestinians should be included in the peace talks, and that the PLO should therefore be recognized, he added.

On security in Beirut, the ministers agreed, in the light of Sunday's "act of horrible terrorism which we cannot condemn severely enough", greatly to increase the coordination between the four contingents.

● French appeal: M Cheysson appealed to all Lebanese throughout the world, especially those leaders who will attend the national reconciliation conference in Geneva on Monday, to get together to speak for a united Lebanon (AFP reports). "The unity of Lebanon is an indispensable condition for the withdrawal of foreign troops from the country."

There would be great disappointment if Lebanese groups did not take part in this effort to achieve unity around the present government.

He noted, on behalf of all four ministers, the steps taken for a ceasefire in the Chouf Mountains and the development of the UN interim force in Lebanon.

"We think that the international community will have a growing role to play in Lebanon," he added.



Faces behind the force: Foreign ministers emerging from yesterday's Paris meeting (from left) Sir Geoffrey Howe, Signor Giulio Andreotti, M Claude Cheysson and Mr George Shultz.

Nato forum likely to cut nuclear arsenal

From John Best, Montebello, Quebec

Nato defence ministers began a two-day meeting here yesterday that was expected to culminate in a decision to reduce substantially the alliance's arsenal of nuclear weapons in Europe.

The 14-country Nuclear Planning Group was also expected to reaffirm Nato's determination to start deploying new US intermediate-range missiles in Europe within a month or so. Canadian officials, who briefed reporters in this village, midway between Ottawa and Montreal, confirmed that a reduction in Nato's nuclear stockpile could be anticipated. They declined to go into detail.

There have been reports that at least 1,500 of the 6,000 short-range weapons which Nato has deployed in Europe will be retired. They include nuclear mines, artillery shells, bombs and anti-aircraft missiles.

Sources said the size of the cut had not been decided upon. One Canadian official said: "There will be an adjustment. It's just a matter of how large they (the ministers) want to make it."

Officials hinted that the reduction would be more than equivalent in numbers to the 572 cruise and Pershing 2 missiles which Nato plans to begin deploying.

"The feeling among everybody is that nuclear weapons are dangerous and that we shouldn't have any more than we need. . . . The peace movement are not the only ones who would like to get the number down. Everybody would."

Officials brushed aside President Andropov's warning about the consequences of a go-ahead on cruise and Pershing 2 deployment. Mr Andropov said on Wednesday that, if deployment were carried out, the Soviet Union would cut the talks in Geneva on reducing intermediate-range missiles.

A Canadian source said: "I don't think that (Mr Andropov's statement) will have that much effect on decisions taken here in the next few days."

The Soviet Union has about 1,000 medium-range warheads capable of striking West Europe. The only comparable land-based missiles on the Western side belong to the French and they do not take part in Nato's integrated-planning structure.

"Deployment of the cruise and Pershing will begin to redress the balance", the source said.

● NEW YORK: Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, yesterday outlined British policy on disarmament and nuclear arms control before the UN disarmament committee (Zoriana Pysariwsky writes). He reiterated the Government's objections to a nuclear freeze and warned against an approach which opted for an appearance of disarmament rather than a true defence against war, with substantive and verifiable agreements.

Leading article, page 11

Kremlin counts on anti-US mood growing in Europe

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The Soviet leadership is counting on the invasion of Grenada to increase anti-American feeling in West Europe and away public opinion against the deployment of cruise and Pershing 2 missiles.

Diplomats said that, although the two issues were not directly connected, the widespread disapproval of American actions had come at a "perfect time" for the Soviet Union. Sources said that the statement by President Andropov published in *Pravda* yesterday was part of a carefully timed Soviet campaign to delay the Nato deployments. Mr Andropov said that continuation of the present Geneva talks would be impossible if the deployments went ahead, but he also made some minor concessions.

Diplomats said that the Soviet leadership was gratified that President Reagan had himself turned the spotlight on American "aggression" at a time when the arms talks had reached a critical stage. "The Russians are hoping that instead of expressing mistrust of Russia in the wake of the airliner crisis, West Europeans will now say they do not trust America enough to allow the deployment of cruise and

Soviet gloom over East-West rift

East-West relations were passing through their most dangerous period since the Cold War, Mr Georgy Arbatov, the Soviet Union's leading specialist on North America, told the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London yesterday (Henry Stanhope writes).

He blamed the development of new weapons and the "extremist group of people" governing the United States - the most militaristic, adventurous, anti-Soviet, ignorant Administration for 50 years.

He said the United States did not really want an agreement on intermediate-range nuclear forces because continuing tension allowed Washington to get the weapons it wanted.

American deployment of Pershing and cruise missiles would destroy the foundation of the INF talks.

Pershing. "One Western diplomat commented: 'All the Soviet arguments about Europe being Washington's nuclear hostage will come to the fore.'"

On Monday, Moscow said that it had begun preparations to deploy short-range nuclear

weapons in East Germany and Czechoslovakia, a move designed to arouse European anxieties. Western experts say that the deployments would have taken place regardless of Nato deployments.

Personal vilification of Mr Reagan has become a feature of the Soviet press lately. Previously, attacks on the American President were tempered by respect for his office.

Mr Andropov's statement which was read on television, has not ended speculation about his state of health. He has returned from the Caucasus and was yesterday seen being driven to the Kremlin. It is still not clear why he made his move on arms control in an interview in *Pravda* rather than during a visit to Bulgaria, which was scheduled for this week and then cancelled.

● GENEVA: "There is now a sound basis for compromise," Mr Yuri Krivitskiy, leader of the Soviet delegation to the negotiations with the US on intermediate-range nuclear forces, said here yesterday.

Details of the latest suggestion made by Mr Andropov were given to the American side during a two-hour meeting, at the US delegation's offices. The next meeting was set for Tuesday.

Afrikaners woo English voters

Whites split in bitter fight

Michael Hornsby, Southern Africa Correspondent, in this second article, reports from Johannesburg on the division of opinion on the new constitution.

Next Wednesday about 2.7 million white South African voters will be asked to approve a slightly modified version of the apartheid system which condemns 24 million of their non-white compatriots to a status that at best is second-class citizenship and at worst is institutionalized servitude.

That is one way of looking at the referendum on the Government's new constitution. Yet, irrelevant as the whole exercise may seem to outsiders, it has been preceded by one of the bitterest political debates in Southern African history, which has shattered traditional loyalties and created new alliances.

For the first time in more than a quarter of a century the ruling National Party (NP) may not be able to win support of a majority of Afrikaners, who account for 60 per cent of the white electorate and have been the main source of the party's strength since it came to power in 1948.

If that proves to be the case, Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, will need to carry with him at least 60 per cent of the generally more liberal English-speaking community if he is to secure even a narrow majority for what he claims would promote "healthy power-sharing" between the races. Mr Botha has said that a majority of only one vote would be enough, but obviously he would prefer a more ringing endorsement.

In the "No" camp two extreme right-wing offshoots of the NP, Dr Andries Treurnicht's Conservative Party (CP) and the smaller and even more fanatical Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP), find themselves campaigning alongside the liberal and staunchly anti-apartheid Progressive Federal Party (PFP).

SOUTH AFRICA'S REFERENDUM Part 2

The CP and the HNP abhor the new constitution as a fatal concession to racial integration. In their view, Coloureds and Indians should be kept out of white political structures entirely and allocated separate territories similar to the tribal homelands already set aside for blacks.

In the eyes of the PFP, however, Mr Botha's reforms would reinforce segregation by enshrining apartheid even more deeply in the country's constitution, would create racial tension between the voteless black masses and the newly privileged Coloureds and Indians and undercut moderate black leaders, such as Chief Gatsha Buthelezi of the Zulus.

Although led by a liberal Afrikaner, the personable Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, the PFP's support is mainly urban



Dr Van Zyl Slabbert: In the liberal camp.

Canberra toughens policy on S African sport

Tony Duboulin, Melbourne

Australia has tightened its policy on sporting contacts with South Africa, making a distinction between amateur and professional sportsmen seeking to compete in Australia.

Under the revised policy announced on Wednesday by Mr Bill Hayden, the Foreign Minister, individual amateur sportsmen and women wanting to come to Australia to compete will

normally be refused entry, while individual professionals will be allowed in.

The reasoning behind this is that amateurs usually, according to Mr Hayden, represent their country, while professionals do not. The ban on teams from the Republic will remain.

Mr Hayden said it was presumed, unless otherwise proved, that amateurs would be representative of their country. If it could be proved otherwise,

individual cases would be considered.

"In the case of professionals it is presumed, on the basis of past experience, that they are not representatives. However, if there is a suggestion that they are, then we will consider that case and they will be excluded."

The Government has also decided to lift the boycott on members of teams that have toured South Africa. Mr Hayden said it was unworkable. The decision means that

Argentine Radicals flock to giant rally

From Andrew Thompson, Buenos Aires

Senior Raul Alfonsín, Argentina's Radical Party presidential contender, addressed one of the biggest political rallies in the country's postwar history on Wednesday night.

More than 800,000 supporters filled the centre of Buenos Aires to listen to an impassioned speech by Señor Alfonsín and other party members. The success of the rally - party officials had been expecting a turnout of about 300,000 - showed that the presidential race, which culminates at the polls on Sunday, was still wide open.

The Peronists are due to hold a similar rally today and face strong psychological pressure to at least equal the radicals in numbers.

The jubilant Radical Party crowds crammed into the streets around the obelisk on the 9 de Julio Avenue, chanting slogans and waving flags. From the improvised rostrum made out of scaffolding, it was impossible to see where the crowds ended; the columns stretched back into the distance.

The speeches were marked by a strong anti-military sentiment, coupled with open challenges to the traditional electoral hegemony of the Peronists. The need for peace in international relations was also heavily emphasized.

Referring to the Falklands conflict with Britain, Señor Victor Martínez, the Radical Party's vice-presidential candidate, said that if the party gained power "we will work



Señor Alfonsín: "The dictatorship is ending."

hours, days, nights, years, through diplomatic channels, but we will not wage one single minute of war to wound Argentine youth in military adventures."

Señor Alfonsín said: "The dictatorship is ending. Corruption is ending. Those decrees written by Daddy's Boys (a reference to the military) are ending. The rule of the thugs is ending. We are no longer going to be strangers in our own country. Democracy is coming."

The candidate drew thunderous applause when he made a plea for national unity to defend Argentina against any "crazy putschist adventures in the future" and against "imperialism, which today sunk its claws in Grenada."

In a direct attack on the Peronists, Señor Alfonsín said: "Important voices in the Justicialist Party say that they can win the elections with General Perón. But if this is true, I ask, as millions of Argentines ask, who is going to govern in Argentina?"

General Perón died in 1974.

Pools win came too late for invalid miner

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

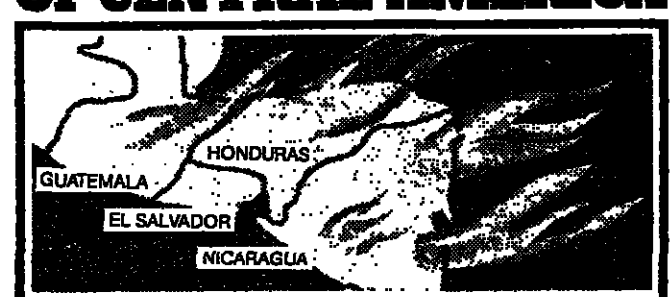
When Señor Jesús Pacheco, a 48-year-old miner won 48m pesetas (£218,000) on the football pools early this month, he told journalists that he was lucky too late. Fate proved him right this week, when the miner, already an invalid as a result of silicosis, died of thrombosis.

He suffered the fatal attack in his modest home in Camacho, in the coal-mining district near Oviedo, on Sunday night while listening to a football report on the radio. His wife, Ramona, partially paralysed for the past four years as a result of a stroke, sought help to get him to hospital.

But doctors were unable to save the life of Señor Pacheco, who already at the time of his win at the pools, had been breathing oxygen through a tube for 20 hours every day.

The couple had no children. They made ends meet on his disability payment of 32,000 pesetas (£145) a month.

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Anti-martial law protest flares in Lahore

From Our Correspondent, Islamabad

Big demonstrations against Pakistan's martial law regime have been staged this week in Lahore, the Punjab provincial capital, for the first time in six years.

The clash between police and demonstrators, who were mainly railway workers demanding higher wages and an end to martial law, is said to have inflicted injuries on both sides. About 50 protesters were arrested.

The police are said to have charged with *lathis* and used teargas shells to disperse crowds who attacked public transport and street lamps after the main demonstration.

Meanwhile, security arrangements in Islamabad, have been tightened on an unprecedented scale.

Mother and son stoned to death in Pakistan

From Hassan Akhtar, Islamabad

A middle-aged woman and her son, aged about 22, were stoned to death this week in the tribal area near Peshawar to avenge a double murder, in accordance with the decision of a tribal Jirga (a council of tribal elders). This was the second incident of stoning to death reported from Peshawar in recent months.

It was reported that the woman Shama, and her son Sohrab Gul, were found guilty by the Jirga in Khyber agency of being involved, with her husband, in putting to death a relative and his son, who had come to stay with them. The woman's husband had disappeared after the alleged murder.

Stoning to death is held by many jurists to be the Islamic punishment for rape or fornication by married people; it is believed to be the first time that such a punishment for murder has been carried out with official sanction in Pakistan.

Political administration in the Khyber tribal agency is not contemplating action against the Jirga.

The woman and her son were reported to have been shot when they were near death from a rain of stones from hundreds of people for about 45 minutes.

In an incident earlier this year an Afghan married woman and a Pakistani Pathan were stoned to death for illegitimate sex relations in an Afghan refugee camp.

450/1250

THE ARTS

Theatre

Torment of the spy next door

Pack of Lies
Lyric

Bob and Barbara are a non-descript middle-aged couple, leading an unassuming life in Ruislip with hardly a care in the world when - out of the blue - they are visited by a gentleman from Whitehall who informs them that their neighbours may be harbouring a Russian spy, and that he requires their front bedroom as a surveillance post.

Bob overrides Barbara's objections and agrees; and, sure enough, the wanted man is observed leaving the house of their two best friends, Peter and Helen. In due course, the authorities move in and mop up the nest of traitors. The whole operation goes like clockwork, except that, unfortunately, Barbara then dies of a heart-attack.

There are hardly any other events, much less any melodrama, and we never get to see the wanted man. Though perhaps this is unnecessary, as he is named as Gordon Lonsdale; and (as readers of last Friday's paper will know) Hugh Whitmore's play is based on the memories of the Ruislip survivors.

In the circumstances, it would be impertinent for any playwright to exploit such material as an imaginative launching pad. Why, then, present it as a play at all?

The answer, conclusively justified in *Pack of Lies*, is that the very banality of the story gives it a moral force beyond the scope of the most sensational plot.

As we first see them, the Ruislip couple exemplify British private life. Michael Williams and Judi Dench take great care not to make fun of them.

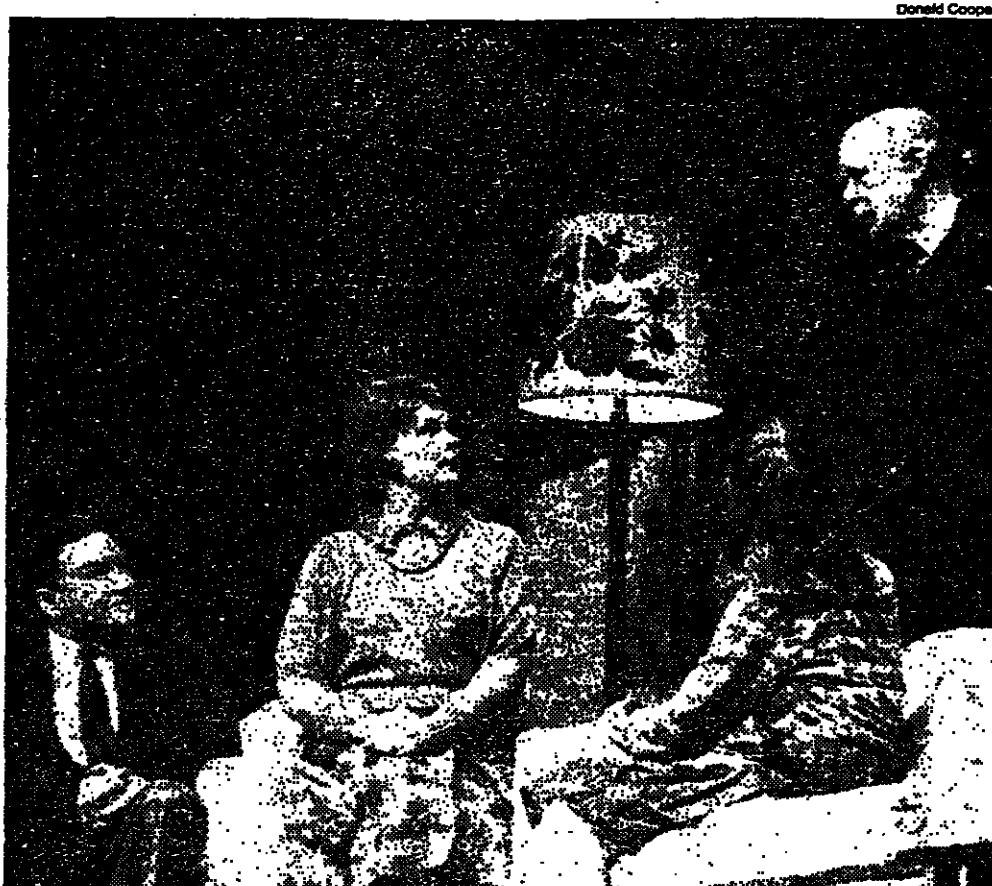
Their daily round of housework and parenthood may look deadly dull, but they are both decent, affectionate people, who happen never to have been required to make a serious choice.

When the moment does arrive, the element of choice is taken out of their hands. Stewart, the Whitehall man played by Richard Vernon with unshakably deferential courtesy, simply refers apologetically to the Official Secrets Act and moves his girl agents into the house; just as he periodically waves his pipe in the air and asks "You don't mind if I...?" He is going to have his smoke whatever they say.

The effect of the scheme on the couple is catastrophic and extremely painful to watch. Mr Williams, hands sinking ever deeper into his trouser-pockets, contemplates the domestic crack-up with an impotent smile. Miss Dench changes from an amiably relaxed figure into a twitchy recluse, withering in the climate of lies. Above all she is unable to face her suspect neighbour Helen - projected by Barbara Leigh-Hunt with overpowering North American bounce - knowing her to be at once a traitor and also a generous and warm-hearted friend.

Mr Whitmore's main achievement is to show Barbara simultaneously disintegrating and acquiring artifice. He does this partly through displaced, climate-tipped, remains stoically tight-lipped with Stewart and secretive with Helen.

But, when her daughter is discovered to have taken a forbidden motor-bike ride, Miss Dench explodes in a terrifying paroxysm of wrath, hurling her satchel at her head and screaming "I'll never trust you again".



Unshakably deferential: Richard Vernon (right) with Judi Dench and Michael Williams

It is also the who speaks the play's epitaph on what Stewart and his kind have done to families such as hers. "Why should he bother about us? We're the kind of people who stand in queues and don't answer back."

Even with the assistance of Ralph Koltai's set, which presents a part-transparent naturalistic interior against a tactical map, Clifford Williams's production does not overcome the awkwardness of the sole narrative scenes. But this is a small imperfection in a play whose tone and values are otherwise so exactly judged.

Irving Wardle

Two Can Play

Arts

Husband and wife lie asleep, to a steady crescendo of distant machine-gun fire. "Sound like Jamaica," murmured my neighbour wryly. Food is unobtainable and a man cannot even bury his own father without sudden fusillades, the coffin getting dropped on him and no end of farce. That settles it: Jim and Gloria will follow their children as illegal American immigrants, with him imagining he is doing all the planning and her taking the first plunge. She returns three weeks later, having survived infinite difficulties, with a new awareness of

her own worth; and her unthinking macho husband finds his stance of superiority will work no more.

In Trevor Rhone's *Two Can Play*, directed by Anton Phillips, the Black Theatre Season have come up with a little classic of *Educating Rita* status: funny, serious, rich and hue. I am only sorry that language problems may prevent it from reaching such a wide audience. Though rooted in one time and place, these two become universal figures.

He is childish, conceited, lazy, impractical; but, except for one very nasty moment when cornered, he never ceases to be lovable, or to be a comic character. She quietly buys black-market cigarettes as an

investment; a smoke for himself costs him a dollar, but when he has it he is cock of the walk. She does everything quietly - everything that is except singing her thanks to the Lord for each success, which gets the full treatment.

Though young for the part, the tall, beautiful Corinne Skinner-Carter is the right foil for Allister Bain's roly-poly Jim. He overdoes the physical business sometimes but the character is perfect: applying double standards with outraged innocence, settling woefully in mid-bed during grass-widowhood but scarcely bothering with a welcome back, finally learning unselfishness the hard way and learning to love it.

Anthony Masters

Dance

Jones & Zane

Riverside

The American team of Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane are the only dancers from overseas to have appeared in three successive Dance Umbrella festivals. Their popularity springs, I think, largely from the unusual play of personality in their performances. Setting Zane's stocky little body and driving physique against Jones's big, loose physique and easy manner makes a relationship, combined with their obvious affection for each other, makes a duet like *Rotary Action* emotionally as well as kinetically interesting.

This year they have brought a company with them: three women whose physical types and dance styles are as varied as their own. But the effect seems to me to be dilution rather than expansion. Jones (who can choreograph very well, as his *At the Break* if for Workmen's Dance showed) has made a set of *Brahms Dances* mainly for them, with some interventions by himself, which makes allusive use of many dance idioms to entertaining but ultimately rather diffuse effect.

In *Shared Distance*, Jones develops movement related to a solo he danced here last year, this time into a duet with Julia West, whose circus-number skills permit effects of one body bouncing off another that are mechanically as exciting, or perhaps even more so, as anything the Jones-Zane combination can achieve, but without the chemistry to transmute dance technique into theatrical tension. Zane has also reworked an old piece, *Continuous Relay*, with entries by Rhonda Moore and Ellen Van Schuylenburgh providing a more complex pattern around his dynamo-like repeated activities. It works quite well, but lacks the exactness of parallel and elegant economy of variation that Jones formerly provided.

I do not want to sound too discouraging, since this programme was the most enjoyable I have yet seen in this year's Umbrella. But the team of Jones and Zane is so much more than the sum of its parts that I hope the pure original version of it is something to continue looking forward to, not just a memory.

John Percival

Concerts

RPO/Groves
Festival Hall/Radio 3

Only three days after its inception, the Great British Music Festival took another giant shuffle forwards on Wednesday with the same mix of the mediocre, the odd, and Tippet. It also came as near to the present as it intends to approach, with a work written in 1975. That was Paul Patterson's Requiem, the one where the ancient text is made to close in on events in Dallas on November 22, 1963.

Henceforth, the festival will withdraw to its stronghold in the middle decades of the century. We will, nevertheless, attempt to keep track of it, though the absence from this point of Tippet, coupled with the incomprehensible absence throughout of Britten, may make it hard to detect any pulse in the animal.

Not that there was much liveliness even in the Tippet performance of this concert. The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Sir Charles Groves gave a tired, smudgy and accident-prone account of the Corelli fantasia, a work whose exuberance one would have thought unquenchable. Perhaps it was the company. Though Tippet in his seventies is capable of composing as remarkably as ever, his music here followed work by two composers less creatively blithe in old age: Delius, whose *Songs of Farewell* make a very little go

a long way, and Havergal Brian, whose compact Symphony No 22 obliges an awful lot to go nowhere at all.

This was billed as the first time anything by Brian had hit the walls of our premier concert hall, but one scarcely needs such reminders of the composer's isolation. Like most neglected music, Brian's speaks loudest of its neglect: nothing else is possible when a composer nearing 90 writes a piece for a large orchestra in a world that has shown little interest in his work for half a century. To perform the score at all is, therefore, contrary to its meaning, which may be why it was so hard on this occasion to fathom the main movement of fury crossed with yearning, or the march-time interlude that curiously combines features of schizo and pastoral.

Earlier in the evening, we had heard from another aged composer, Jean Langlais, who belied his frail, blind appearance with organ-playing of strident colour, bold contrast and choppy rhythms, fiercely intolerant of being merely pleasant. Bach and Franck were dispatched with equal severity; then, M. Langlais was joined by Caroline Shuster in his own *Double fantasia*, a combat of Messiaen's with older modalities. The recital ended with an improvisation on a theme submitted by Nicholas Danby, one well made, one would have thought, to support a deeper inquiry than this robust decorative rhapsody.

Paul Griffiths

CBSO/Shostakovich

Barbican

The subject of Shostakovich's Eighth Symphony is war, or more specifically the futility of it. It still seems extraordinary that such a statement should have followed so hard on the heels of the grossly patriotic "Leningrad" Symphony - unless that work was really intended as an enormous gesture of cynicism rather than a stirring if necessary piece of propaganda.

Either way, the Eighth, given on Wednesday by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra conducted by the composer's son, Maxim, represents a return to a level of self-honesty absent in Shostakovich's work in this genre since the Fourth Symphony. Here he scrutinizes conflict through the eyes of both philosopher and common man.

Rather surprisingly, the outcome is neither tragic nor optimistic. Instead Shostakovich takes the view that, however much man may condemn war, he will always

find circumstance to justify it. That, anyhow, is one way of explaining the humanistic, Nielsen-like finale which arrives almost ice-cold after the pessimism and screaming agonies of the epic first movement and the Mahlerian sinister innocence of the two scherzos.

In such personal and contradictory music, it obviously helps to have a close relative of the composer in command, and Maxim Shostakovich's direction encouraged the CBSO to consolidate their reputation as the best of our regional orchestras. The strings were always alert and secure, while the wind and brass handled solos, quiet counterpoint and harsh outbursts with marvelous flexibility.

John Lill earlier joined the orchestra in Prokofiev's First Piano Concerto, music which does nothing except display the soloist's technical brilliance and the youthful composer's mastery of form. Despite some occasional rough edges in the ensemble, the work sparkled dutifully.

Stephen Pettitt

Television

Cruising into controversy

If you go down in the woods today or, at any rate, quite soon, you might see something like the 24-vehicle convoy Thames's TV Eye assembled to simulate the Cruise missile paraphernalia. *TV Eye* drove theirs from Greenham Common to gauge reaction from people who are likely to be the first to see the real thing. It was an educational piece of television initiative, produced by Linda McDougall and presented by Peter Prendergast, accompanied by a simple man's guide to this putative defender of our freedom.

Each convoy carries four missiles, each with the destructive power, as Mr Denis Healey went into the woods to say, of ten Hiroshimas. He thought it militarily useless, certain to increase our vulnerability, an impediment to disarmament and not good for Nato. Mr Francis Pym was also to be seen in the woods last night. He said, however much man may condemn war, he will always

The 21st missile, which weighs 3,000lb and costs £1m - a bargain, think some - is rather slow, its 500 mph being about

that of a commercial aircraft. Its range is 1,500 miles. But it is deadly accurate and can zigzag about, confusing observers about its eventual target.

Its supporters acclaim its dispersibility. *TV Eye* went into the logistics of this and shed some doubts. The Greenham Common missiles would have to travel seven miles to be out of range of a first strike and, though the Government, said *TV Eye*, had a plan to close a network of roads to expedite movement, the sites convoys could go to were limited and within the capacity of the Russians to fathom.

Mr Frank Barnaby, of the International Peace Research Institute, thought the targets were likely to have been destroyed by other means anyway and could not see the point of it. Mr Owen Greene, an Open University nuclear war researcher, thought it too easy to observe by satellites or spies and vulnerable in movement.

There will ultimately be about 164 of these missiles in Britain, manoeuvring around the roads occasionally with portable toilets and all. And if it

Cinema

Ozu's affectionate magnificence

Tokyo Story (U)
Gate Notting Hill

The Colour of Pomegranates (U)
Camden Plaza

Yasujiro Ozu, unknown in the West until the very last years of his career, was one of the greatest artists that the cinema has produced. This is a moment of Ozu anniversaries. December 12 is the eightieth anniversary of his birth and the twentieth of his death; and it is just 30 years since he completed *Tokyo Story*, which is now reissued in a new and newly subtitled print.

Tokyo Story may well be his finest film - though Ozu was always making the same film, at least in the last two decades of his working life. He was one of those artists - more often encountered in other arts than in the cinema - who constantly rework the same material and the same theme. His later films are invariably about the family, the weakening and eventual severing of the emotional links that have held them together, the loneliness that often results; and the acceptance, resignation and fortitude with which life must be faced.

Invariably his characters belong to a modestly prosperous middle class (and this often puzzled radical cineastes and critics, suspecting that Ozu, whose early films tended to be comedies about the impoverished, had in this respect somehow abandoned social responsibility).

Ozu and his regular script collaborator, Kogo Noda, quite consciously saw each film as a variation or development of what had gone before. The same character names persist from film to film. The same stock company of actors is used over and over. It is often hard to distinguish the settings of the different films.

Ozu illustrates the paradox that very often it is in the most local and particular things that an artist discovers the universal. In this his studies of middle-class life irresistibly attract comparisons with Chekhov and Jane Austen. Ozu has traditionally been regarded, at home and abroad, as the most Japanese of directors, yet he is also the most universal and accessible. His concerns and his attitudes, it is true, belong very much to his own race and culture; and critics of his work have often been impelled to refer to *haiku*, to Japanese ceramics, to Zen Buddhism (much in vogue in the West at the time of the first discovery of Ozu).

Such references are appropriate and helpful; but access to Ozu does not at all depend on them. Ozu was above all concerned with those essences of character which are the same for every race and culture.

That is why he mistrusted formal plots, which he felt force and restrict character; and why the stories of his films are motivated only by the actions and inconsistencies of human beings. This too is why, when we return to *Tokyo Story*, after whatever interval, all the characters - even people glimpsed only momentarily - remain as familiar as old friends. The people in last week's Hollywood melodramas have already disappeared into mist; but Ozu's people stay vivid in the memory, thirty years after. Seeing the film again is in a very actual sense a reunion.

What happens in the film could hardly be simpler. An old couple travel from their remote provincial town to Tokyo to visit their grown-up children. The children are in their way genuinely pleased to see their parents, but they have their own lives to live; and the old folk are in the way. They are farmed off to a spa. There is mutual relief



Facing a lonely future: Setsuko Hara and Chishu Ryu as daughter and father in *Tokyo Story*

when they decide to go home early. On the journey back, the old lady is taken ill. The children dutifully troop to her deathbed. After the funeral they take the train back to Tokyo, leaving the old man to face the lonely future with his youngest, unmarried daughter.

The scenes and incidents are mundane and unimportant. The dialogue is so simple and direct that its character survives subtlety. Yet, though his people seem to talk only about the banal arrangements of their days, about their most ordinary feelings and (endlessly) about the weather, Ozu scripts are regarded and read as literature in Japan. Ozu's deceptively artless dialogue, like his visual observation of his people, has a singular way of revealing to us the most intimate exchanges of thought and feeling.

The austerity of Ozu's style is axiomatic. His camera rarely moves, or varies its position from a very low angle, about three feet from the ground. (An old myth alleged that Ozu's first cameraman succumbed to the consequent stomach disorders he suffered.) It represents the point of view of someone quietly seated on a *tatami*; and this is the place from which Ozu takes his steady view of men - magnificently affectionate, ironically humorous (Ozu films are full of comedy), contemplating and comprehending human frailty, with kindness but not indulgence.

The Armenian artist Sarkis (called Sergei) Paradjanov, working in symbols, mysticism and aesthetic invention, provides a strong contrast with Ozu. He was

revealed to the West with his monumental *Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors*; and now, bit by bit, his extraordinary *The Colour of Pomegranates* is being meted out to us. It was finished 14 years ago, but promptly suppressed by the Soviet authorities on the grounds that it is obscure (which it is), but clearly much more because of its fierce underlying nationalist sentiment, anathema in the Union of Socialist Republics. The director himself was arraigned on dubious charges. Only now, after four and a half years of prison and another five of inactivity and surveillance, is he unmolested to work again.

A year or so ago a pirated and disastrously poor print of the film was shown in London, and I reviewed it at length. Now the Soviet authorities have so far relented as to make a perfect colour print available for export: it is this that is to be shown at the Camden Plaza. It is still however in the same truncated version edited by another Soviet director, Sergei Yutkevich (more than half a century ago, ironically enough, an avant-gardist himself, lacking a couple of major sequences).

Even incomplete, this new version finally conveys the full splendour of Paradjanov's visual creation, and his intentions in telling the story of Armenia's national poet, Sayat Nova, in hieratic moving tableaux, a dynamic equivalent to the ancient manuscript illuminations which figure prominently in the film. Paradjanov's vision is like no one else's. Its suppression is one of the long succession of tragedies in the history of Soviet cinema.

David Robinson

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The great moving picture show

In a few days' time, an air-conditioned vehicle will be pulling out of the little Czech village of Kroměříž, near Brno, to make its way slowly across Europe to London. In Royal Academy circles, it is known as the "ice cream van". It is more like an art historical ambulance. Inside, two museum curators will nurse a large oil painting, crated and stabilized by means of wall and ceiling straps. They will, between them, never let the patient out of their sight. They will tend it at the slightest jolt. According to Professor John Steer of Birkbeck College, London, it is without question the single most important and valuable painting in Czechoslovakia.

The work is Titian's peculiarly grisly late masterpiece, "The Flaying of Marsyas". The unfortunate fawn, his panpipes having been no match for Apollo's lyre, is shown strung up by his heels, being skinned like a rabbit. In the seventeenth century, it was in the Arundel collection. Later, however, it was acquired in a lottery by the Bishop of Orléans, who put it in his palace at Kroměříž. It has stayed there ever since - remote, difficult to reach, little visited even by scholars. Its loan to the Academy for *The Genius of Venice 1500-1600* exhibition opening on November 25 is a major coup for the organizers. It emphasizes that this is about as important a show of Renaissance art, perhaps of art of any period, as Britain can hope to see again, given the very stringent restrictions now widely imposed on moving paintings on wood.

With its theme as the art of Venice and the Veneto in the sixteenth century, *The Genius of Venice* invites comparison with the Royal Academy's great 1930 exhibition of Italian art from 1200 to 1900. Astonishingly, this brought paintings such as Giorgione's *The Tempest* and Botticelli's *Birth of Venus* to Piccadilly, displaying them to an awed public that was less familiar with foreign travel than it would be today. To say that it is highly unlikely that that exhibition could be repeated now is an understatement. The notion of more than 900 paintings crowded on to the walls of Burlington House, often one above the other in tiers, would dismay modern gallery personnel. And even in the less conservation conscious 1930s the exhibition was only possible because Mussolini saw it virtually as his personal gift. Art historians were overruled by Il Duce. For a time it seemed that the risks had indeed been foolhardy, when the liner bearing many of the paintings was caught in freakishly dirty weather and *The Times* published daily bulletins on its progress. "Nowadays", says Professor Steer, "nobody would dream of letting Giorgione's *Tempest* move 100 yards, much less out of the country."

Fears about moving works of art were recently reinforced by a conference of museum directors that took place last autumn in Florence. This followed the storm of consternation, swelled by Signor Giulio Argan, at one time the communist mayor of Rome, who is himself an art historian, that followed the *Treasures from the Vatican* exhibition in the United States. It was widely felt that the Vatican had been far too cavalier in sending fragile works of art that were in any case, Signor Argan argued, as much the patrimony of Rome as of the Church.



Piombino's "Judgement of Solomon": the genesis of an extravaganza

The Florence conference led to international agreement that works on panel, subject to damage through expansion and contraction, should never be permitted to travel. The embargo affects nearly all easel paintings before 1500. If a blockbuster exhibition of the early Renaissance is therefore ruled out, one celebrating the great age of Venetian art - painters such as Titian and Tintoretto having worked largely on canvas - surely offers the richest theme left.

Not that this was quite the thinking behind the show. Its genesis lies more in the cleaning and restoration, now partly complete, of Sebastiano del Piombino's *Judgement of Solomon* from Kingston Lacy, Dorset. For many years this was the home of a recluse and not easy to visit, but recently it was bequeathed to the National Trust. Obtaining this important, little-seen painting inspired the Italian authorities to enthusiastically support the exhibition. As well as the Brera in Milan and the Accademia in Venice, the splendid civic museum of Bassano del Grappa - home both of the Italian spirit *grappa* and the painter Jacopo Bassano - has been especially generous. Gallery Eight at Burlington House will be devoted to Bassano, best known for his rustic nativity scenes, often executed with a drama and naturalism that prefigured Caravaggio. Another room will go to Lorenzo Lotto, a favourite artist of Berenson, who is now thought almost conclusively to have been born in Venice, although he later worked in the Marche. Scholars look forward keenly to this collection of his art as his altarpieces are often scattered in small, inaccessible villages. A notable success was obtaining Veronese's last painting from Venice itself, the altarpiece *San Pantaleone Healing a Child from the Church of San Pantaleone*. Its subject appealed to a people always fearful of plague. But now the painting is difficult to see in

situ, the altar for which it was conceived having been destroyed when the church was rebuilt in the seventeenth century. The work has been restored for the exhibition by the aptly named Signor Ottorino Nonfamele of Bologna.

But only about a third of the exhibition will come from Italy and it is often works now outside the country of origin that form the surprises. As Norman Rosenthal, Exhibitions Secretary at the Academy, says: "The object of an exhibition is to reveal the unknown to people." A large number of canvases will be coming from the

required to remove it. Its attribution to Tintoretto was only firmly made three years ago. Before that it had been thought a replica.

The choice of pictures for the Academy by Charles Hope of the Warburg Institute has enabled some long separated companions to be reunited. Thus from Brazil Titian's portrait of Cristoforo Madruzzo, an influential figure in the Council of Trent, will be hung with the National Gallery of Washington's Moroni of his nephew, Gian Lodovico Madruzzo. The Strasburg *Cephalus and Procris* by Veronese will be seen with the same artist's *Venus and Adonis* from the Prado. When the latter was restored for the exhibition, it was found that the top half was a later addition and may be removed.

In the sculpture section (Venetian sculpture will be shown, to have been more plentiful than usually thought), two bronzes by Riccio of a Satyr and Satyrress have been joined in an erotic before and after. The before, of 1507-1516 and from the Victoria & Albert Museum, shows the two creatures canoodling side by side. Its companion, the after, or perhaps one should say the during, comes from Ecouen in France and was one of Riccio's last works, having been executed after the erotic engravings published by Marcantonio Raimondi in 1524. Showing satyr and satyrress in an ambitious love-making position, it has only recently been rescued from a back room in the Musée de Cluny, where it had been consigned by a prudish nineteenth-century curator.

The difficulties of coordination an exhibition like this are considerable. "We have 420 characters coming from different parts of the globe," says Rosenthal. "They all have to arrive at more or less the same time. It's like a battle." Transport is also expensive and can be an open-ended liability:

To break even, the Academy will need to attract 3,000 visitors a day

Prado, and the Hermitage is lending two works in return for Van Dyck's from the National Portrait Gallery that have gone to the Soviet Union. They are a Lotto double portrait and "Perseus Armed by Mercury and Minerva" by that painter of bizarre mythologies, Paris Bordone.

One of the most difficult works to transport will be, curiously, from Britain. Tintoretto's 16ft-wide canvas of *Christ Washing the Feet of His Disciples* belongs to the chapter of Newcastle upon Tyne cathedral but is on permanent loan to the Shipley Art Gallery, Gateshead. There it has been built into a wall so that a crane will be

having requested a loan, you have to accept the conditions imposed by the lender. Equally the Academy, with its straitened finances, hopes at least to break even if not make a profit, and for this it will need visitor figures on scale of the Japan exhibition last year, of about 3,000 a day. On the other hand, possible losses up to £120,000 are being guaranteed by the Sea Containers Group and Venice Simplon-Orient-Express Ltd, who are new to art sponsorship. It is part of a strategy to establish the name of the Orient Express as a symbol of quality, on which an empire of hotels, tour companies and boutiques will be built.

There are of course some kinds of art that can never be transported or not for an exhibition at least. Although on will be able to sense the special quality of the Veneto landscape in the backgrounds of paintings - like that of Chinese and Japanese paintings, the imagined landscape seems improbable at first sight but is curiously like the real thing - buildings are very much more difficult to represent. There will be a film but no models such as those that were the delight of the Palladio exhibition of 1975. (Although two will be shown in a secondary exhibition organized by the Italian tourist authorities in the Private Rooms). Based in Vicenza, Palladio is the towering architectural figure, but partly because the villas were frescoed rather decorated with easel paintings, the world of his buildings and of the moth-eaten, classicizing Vicenian aristocracy that inhabited them will be underplayed. Vicenzo Catena's portrait of Giangiorgio Trissino, the patron who first perceived Palladio's genius and even gave him his Latin-derived name, will be of few works to redress the balance. Since the frescoes from the Malcontenta were peeled from the walls early this century it is a pity that none will be brought to the show. But frescoes are regarded as even more fragile than panel.

The world that will emerge vividly is that of the Venetian collector. "As you are the richest men in Italy, it is right and proper that you should also have more beautiful things than other people, for artists go where money flows and where people are plump and prosperous," wrote the architect Jacopo Sansovino's son, Francesco, in a guidebook to Venice in the form of a dialogue published in 1561. A Palma Giovane *Portrait of a Collector* will be united with the bronze shown in the picture. Andrea Odini, who significantly chose to be shown with his antique statue rather than the petrified snakes and stuffed chameleon that were also in his hoard, appears in the portrait by Lotto. For such men, as well as for princes and noblemen, painters executed their lyrical, tenuous classical *poesie* adorned with beautiful women, the plumper and more prosperous-looking the better; and a Riccio his copulating satyrs and satyrresses. It will be our good fortune next month that their possessions still travel well.

The author is senior architectural writer for Country Life.

Monday's Spectrum
Pillars of Empire: Jan Morris and Simon Winchester on the buildings of the Raj

moreover... Miles Kington

On the Alligator trail

Louisiana. "Unlawful to Litter the Highway", say the strict signs along the Louisiana roads. They could make a fortune out of fine the sugar industry then, because this time of year the highway is littered with sugar canes fallen from the huge farm trucks as the two-month-long sugar harvest begins. Some places it's so thick you seem to be driving on sugar matting. The canes are about nine foot high, but half of that is leaves, which are burnt off the fields...

Trate reader: Look, you've been writing non-stop about Louisiana for two weeks now. Can't you give it a rest? You're turning into Channel 4.

Mr. Sorry, but it's a fascinating place. I wasn't expecting to find lizards all over New Orleans, or dragonflies flying down the middle of Canal Street, or to come face to face with alligators...

Trate reader: Don't tell me it's the alligator season too.

Mr. No, that's just finished. Oddly enough, the alligator was a protected animal until two or three years ago, but now it's multiplying so much you can go out and shoot them in September. And then eat them. Fresh alligator meat is amazingly good - firm, white, meaty, with a vague taste of fish.

Trate reader: Fat lot of good that is to a reader in London.

Point taken. The only answer is to go to Louisiana yourself, and see the acceptable face of America. A lady in Baton Rouge said sadly to me that she hated the way it was so much easier to export the junk side of the United States than the quality side, her heart had fallen when she arrived in London to find MacDonalds and Burger King all over the place, not classy Creole cooking, or indeed just plain good American home cooking.

She's right. I never expected to walk into a plain eating house like Gino's in a plain town like Houma, and sample in one meal fried alligator, huge frog legs, soft-shell crab (you eat the shell as well as the crab) and the best pizza in the world. It is Gino's own recipe for shrimp and crab pizza and it should be exported all over the world.

"We're working on it," says Gino laconically. "Had a Japanese customer in here once, and we now send a regular pizza order to Tokyo. It's a start, anyway."

Nor had I expected Avery Island. Not an island now, but a small hill near New Iberia which sits on top of a salt deposit five miles deep. Here a hundred years ago Mr. McIlhenny grew peppers, mixed them with salt for three years, added vinegar and called the result Tabasco sauce, and to this day all the Tabasco in the world comes from one factory on Avery Island. With his money, McIlhenny turned the rest of the island into the most enchanting gardens you could imagine, full of bamboo, huge oaks, snowy egret, camellias and, yes, alligators. I have never been anywhere quite so calm, in America or not.

Nor had I expected to encounter Nottoway, the biggest plantation home in the state, lovingly restored by two young men called Arlin Dease and Steve Saunders until it is now again the 54-room birthday cake staring at the Mississippi which was first completed in 1859, including a small ballroom for the daughters' use. I had not expected to meet Alex Patout, young chef at Patout's, a Cajun restaurant in New Iberia, and to find that a few months previously he had been up in Williamsburg cooking for the heads-of-state dinner which Mrs Thatcher was forced to miss "due to the fact that she had to go home to be reelected". You missed a great dinner, Mr T.

All these things, and many more, whether taking place against the cricket-loud Louisiana countryside or the soft nights of New Orleans where the crickets are replaced by music, would easily make an article each.

Trate reader: But you won't, will you? Back to humour next week, eh?

Mr. All right. But I'll have to write about it somewhere. Louisiana is the sort of place you have to tell people about.

Trate reader: Believe me, I get the point.

Mr. Thank you.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 187)

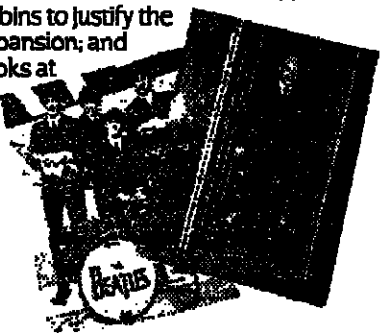
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The Robbins Report - Twenty Years After,

Harold Macmillan had just retired as Prime Minister, the Beatles were just getting into their stride, the pound was worth \$2.80, and unemployment was well under one million in 1963 when the Robbins report on higher education was published. Over the next five weeks *The Times Higher Education Supplement* will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the report that so decisively shaped our universities and colleges. Richard Hoggart discusses the impact of Robbins against the background of Britain's social revolution of the 1960s; Charles Carter recalls how the message of Robbins was enthusiastically received in the new universities; Toby Weaver explains why the strategy of Robbins was rejected by the Government, and the polytechnics created instead; Gareth Williams takes a critical look at the sums done by Robbins to justify the great university expansion; and Adrian Cadbury looks at the post-Robbins prospects for higher education.



Also in this weeks issue:

Polyversities - a new breed?
John Beer on Coleridge

The Times Higher Education Supplement
On sale at newsagents 50p

Tony Samstag describes how acid pollution is no respecter of national boundaries

Mrs Eskedal is recovering from her heart attack, if that is what it was. It certainly came as a shock at the time.

She is a fine figure of a woman in late middle age, who with her husband could easily have posed for a painting that would have had to be called "Norwegian Gothic". She was standing, appropriately, in the rain, her voice raised against the torrent of rushing water that feeds the Tovdal river in southern Norway where the Eskedals farm about seven square miles, mostly timber. When they settled there 16 years ago the waters teemed with fish, which they used to catch on their own lakes for dinner, and which now cost hundreds of pounds a year to buy.

"We are scared", Mrs Eskedal was saying. "With fish dying, what's going to die next? Moments later she was flat on the ground, gasping convulsively like any one of those salmon or brown trout in its death agonies. It is only a slight exaggeration to say that Mrs Eskedal, too, had been poisoned by acid rain.

The phrase "acid rain" was almost certainly coined by a British scientist in a book published in 1872. It took exactly a century for the United Nations Conference on the Environment in Stockholm to give the phrase international currency. Sweden had agreed to host the conference to create a forum for its complaints that its lakes and rivers were falling victim to other countries' airborne wastes.

The Swedes have maintained that initial propaganda lead, with the Norwegians trying harder of late as number two, and the Germans close to despair over the fate of their forests. The Norwegian case is especially poignant: sport fishing in particular is a national passion, bound up in a romantic love of nature verging on mysticism and running deeper, if anything, than their Nordic neighbours. Perhaps 80 per cent of the thousands of lakes in

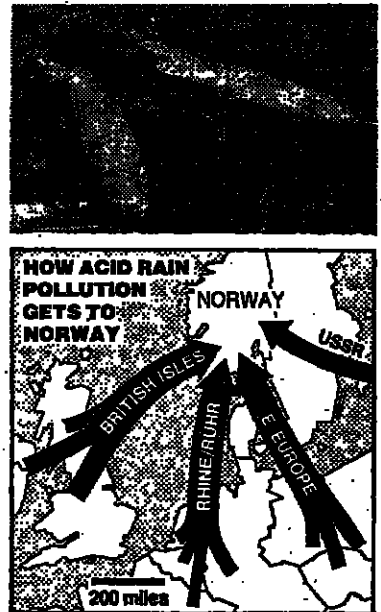
three southern counties are devoid of fish life, the Norwegians claim, because of acidification.

It is not only fish that are affected. The Eskedals have had to increase the use of lime in their fields ever the years to keep grass production at an acceptable level; they are using a tonne per hectare now, and are planning to increase it again. Bird life on their farm, which used to abound, has dwindled noticeably, and the German experience of diebacks over vast acreages of forest has prompted them to look anxiously to their trees.

Any schoolboy in a laboratory can reproduce the chemistry that causes acid rain. Sulphur and nitrogen oxides, waste products of burning fossil fuels, change in the presence of sunlight into dilute sulphuric and nitric acids. Strictly speaking, the process is known as "acidification"; once the pollution has fallen, whether as rain, snow, mist or fine dust particles, a series of chemical reactions continues in water, soil, rock and the living things that depend on them.

European industry emits about 33 million tonnes of sulphur alone annually, half the world's total; the British contribution is thought to be higher than that of any European country except Russia, and the Scandinavians argue that much of it is blown their way by the prevailing winds. The British response to a decade of polite but persistent nagging on the subject came earlier last month when the Royal Society announced a five-year, £5m study, financed by the Central Electricity Generating Board and the National Coal Board, into "the causes acidification of surface waters in affected areas of Norway and Sweden".

While insisting that the sponsors of the study would not attempt to influence its results, Sir Walter Marshall, chairman of the CEBG, said: "For those who argue for action now and research later, I would simply point out that to achieve the threefold reduction in sulphur dioxide emissions from the UK that has been called for would entail a very high capital cost -



probably in excess of £4,000m - and a continuing cost equivalent to about £700m each year thereafter". Scandinavian reaction was as caustic as it was swift. "Rediscovering the wheel", snapped one Norwegian scientist.

Like so much else to do with acid rain, estimates of abatement costs and benefits are still at the stage of educated guesses. The technology does exist to wash the fuel and to "scrub" the emissions of their sulphur content before they enter the atmosphere. A controversial study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development concluded in 1981 that in terms of savings in human health, environmental and crop damage, and recovery of sulphur itself, the least a serious emission control programme could expect to recover was two thirds of its costs; at most, benefits might approach an eightfold return on investment.

Mr William Waldegrave, Under Secretary of State in the Department of the Environment, is to visit Norway next year to discuss acid rain. It is unlikely that the

grievances of the Scandinavians will move him any more than they did his predecessor, Mr Ciles Shaw; nor will such slow-moving international measures as the Geneva Convention on transboundary air pollution and the European Commission's directive on sulphur dioxide hasten the Government in its deliberations any more than it wants to be. Self interest however, may be a much different affair.

There is little doubt that the British, like the Americans before them, are far from the efficient exporters of acid rain that they thought they were. Acid rain is falling on Britain steadily, and the Government's own scientists are accumulating evidence to that effect at an accelerating rate.

An unpublished report by the Nature Conservancy Council dated last May asserts flatly: "Over many parts of Britain the rainfall averages are lower than pH4.6", not quite the equivalent of orange juice, "and in eastern areas it averages less than 4.3", not quite lemonade.

"Evidently, attempts by the Forestry Commission to establish new plantations in the Pennines have failed because of the effects of sulphur pollution", say the NCC.

Acid rain could almost be taken as a short-hand expression for air pollution generally, so wide-ranging are its effects suspected to be. Crumbling buildings, corroding industrial plant, even railway tracks are thought to be victims of the process. The Germans are said to be expecting a catastrophe within the next year or two as concrete structures weakened by acidification begin to collapse.

FRIDAY PAGE

The eternal revolutionary

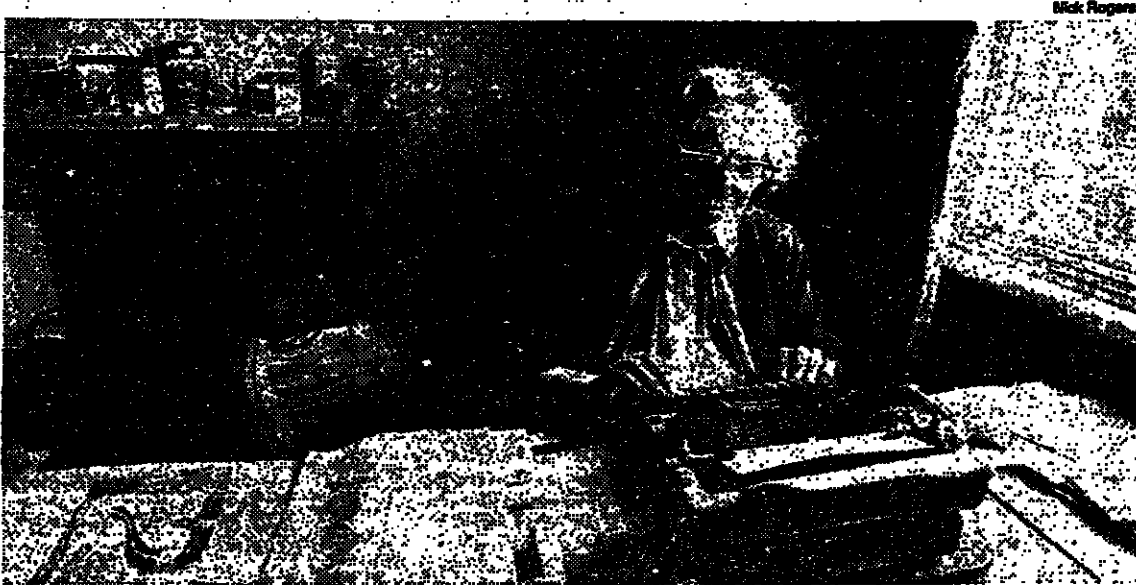
Portsmouth is almost the last stop in Britain before you fall off the cliffs at Land's End. It seems odd that anyone who likes to keep in touch with political events should live there, but it has been Dora Russell's home for much of the past 60 years.

From there, at 89, she fires off letters to the *New Statesman* and *The Listener* on feminism, socialism, Marxism and related topics. It is a way of keeping her hand in of showing that Portsmouth still contains a political activist. This week sees the publication of her new book, *The Religion of the Machine Age* by Routledge Kegan Paul and the re-issue of her collected essays from 1925 onwards, *The Dora Russell Reader* by Pandora Press (the title reminds her of a school text book, but the publisher insisted).

Veteran feminist, campaigner for conservation and peace, she is being rediscovered late in the day by a new generation of feminists. There was a time when she seemed to have a hand in most progressive causes. She helped in the organization of CND and of the Women's Peace Caravan that toured the Soviet Union in the 1950s. Before A. S. Neill set up Dartington, she ran the Beacon Hill School with her husband Bertrand Russell, from whom she was later divorced. Newspapers published outraged articles when it became known that the pupils were running around with no clothes on. Her first book, *Hypnotic*, published in 1925, suggested that women had the right to enjoy sex. It was denounced by the *Sunday Express* and promptly sold an extra 600 copies. Dora was considered shockingly ahead of her time.

The house at Portsmouth is on a hill overlooking fields down to the sea. The window frames are painted in Cornish blue and the porch has a curved pediment and orange pillars. That addition was the result of the Russell's visit to China in 1920, a trip that bonded Dora, Black, fellow at Girton with a promising academic career before her, irrevocably and at times painfully to one of the most brilliant men of the day.

Dora Russell came out of the house to meet me. Her walking stick is one of the few signs of her advanced age. She is warm and welcoming and behind the spectacles are the alert, almond-shaped eyes of the photograph of the young Dora on the cover of her autobiography, *The Tamarisk Tree*, which Virago published six years ago. We went through the kitchen. She lived in six of family gatherings round the table, and the hall with its banisters painted in the anarchist colours of red and black, to her study. On the desk were a clutter of papers - *Tribune*, *New*



Dora Russell: rediscovery by a new generation of feminists

Statesman, *Morning Star* and the *Salisbury Herald*. It was referred to frequently over the next few hours as she read out parts to illustrate her thesis.

The Religion of the Machine Age has an intriguing history. She wrote the first chapter in 1923, inspired by her visits to the United States and to the Soviet Union. In America she found that technology had become the new religion and in Soviet Russia of 1920, the idea had evolved that the state would run like a machine and everyone would fit into it. Communism and capitalism were reverse sides of the same coin, she argued, that of the male-dominated technological and scientific world.

No one could see what she was driving at. Progress was thought inevitable and, on the whole, good, and her views seemed backward. Discouraged, she put away the manuscript and threw herself into a birth control campaign. Finally, as the consensus swung towards what she had been saying earlier, she got back to her typewriter.

There is also a personal and tragic reason for returning to the book. Her younger son, Roddy, had been a conscientious objector in 1952, following the example of the Russell-Einstein manifesto against nuclear war. He had chosen to do his national service working in the mines. While helping to pull out pit props where the roof was unsafe, a rock fall put him, at 23, in a wheelchair for life. She and Roddy shared the same views of life and politics, and he insisted that the machine age book was her "own special original idea" and that she should continue with it. She showed him the finished manuscript last

February. It was the last time she saw him, for he died of a heart attack in April, shortly before he was due to stay with her in Cornwall. "It was standing room only at his funeral. There were more than 60 people at the chapel in Hampstead and it was almost a festival in his honour. When I returned to Cornwall, the proofs of the book arrived on the very day that he should have come here. In order not to collapse I simply devoted myself to going on with them."

On the mantelpiece among the massed family photographs is an unframed snapshot of Roddy as a handsome, intelligent young man on the threshold of life. "That is how I remember him," Dora says. "Roddy and I were great revolutionaries together - it's like half of myself gone. But I've faced it twice before." She has indeed faced misfortune. There was the bitter divorce from Russell. The man who professed liberty and peace had her watched after their separation for indications that would affect the terms of the divorce. The Russells had run an open marriage with promises not to be possessive or jealous, and the younger children were the offspring of Dora and her American lover, the journalist Griffin Barry. But in the final analysis, Bertie reverted to type and, with all the rights of title and wealth on his side, insisted on custody of the two elder children. Dora and her two younger children stayed on at the school, for which she repaid a large part of her alimony in rent to Russell.

In the midst of the divorce, Dora fell deeply in love with a man younger than her, Paul Gillard. He was an active communist which, in

the 1930s, meant risking physical danger. Paul came from Plymouth where there was a flourishing fascist cell. He was killed by persons unknown as he walked home from a pub near Plymouth one night. His body was found the next day in a disused railway cutting near the road. His death, Dora wrote in her autobiography, meant the end of her quest for personal happiness and from then on she lived for "impersonal ends" - the school and her causes. Later, her elder son, John, heir to Bertrand Russell, suffered a severe nervous breakdown. Now aged 60, he has been looked after by his mother at their Portsmouth home for nearly 30 years.

The publication of her autobiography contributed to her being adopted as the sage of the feminist movement. She has also been taken up by members of the alternative culture, among them Heathcote Williams. I first came across her at an arts festival in Cornwall two years ago taking part in a three-day marathon debate. Other speakers flamed, but Dora Russell was calm and again to talk on whatever subject was going - from the conservation of the whale to the asceticism of medieval monks.

"I had a great reputation as a public speaker - it was the actress in me. There was nothing I liked better than standing on a box at World's End, going out about the Foreign Office. I went to Liverpool recently after a group asked me to speak. I've been to London and last year to Leeds. All these people write to me, although it doesn't occur to them that it is difficult for me to get about. I find it an arduous business to walk

to the end of the platform at Paddington."

If you get Dora Russell on to the subject of sex, it can become embarrassing in mixed company. The *Times* photographer tried to close his ears to what sounded like a character assassination on all males, and later she said she was sorry that the subject had come up while he was there. But she feels strongly that the hostility of men towards women comes down to sex.

"I have tried to understand why men have always persecuted women, and my conclusion was that the real trouble lay in the biological sphere, the differences between the way men and women approached sex. A man can liberate himself from sex in a way that a woman can only achieve with adequate birth control. A woman knows that the act could be the prelude to pregnancy but for a man it is an act from which he can separate himself. But what he is trying to liberate himself from is his biological bondage, to escape from being an animal."

"Yet the path to regeneration lies through our animal life. People were furious with me when I suggested that in 1927. When I read *Best and Man* by Mary Midgely, in which she says, 'Man is not like an animal. Man is an animal', I wrote to her saying how splendid it was that she could say in 1980 what I had not been allowed to say. An enormous number of good things are animal - our emotions are animal."

Dora Russell applies emotion to politics as well. Her visit to Bolshevik Russia in 1920 gave her a life-long love of the Soviet Union and she springs to its defence in letters to newspapers.

Her book has the flavour of anarchism about it - what we must do, she says, is to create new morality under which it will be impossible to treat human beings like machines, and to bring the intellect into harmony with the emotions.

The afternoon is drawing on and I begin to worry about the length of the visit. But Dora Russell has talked tirelessly for several hours and will no doubt go on talking until it is time for dinner.

As I leave there are still books and papers to see, anecdotes to be finished. At the front door she waves cheerfully and cries: "On with the women's revolution!"

The last line of her book expresses the spirit with which she has battled through life: "Humanity will ever seek but never attain perfection. Let us at least survive and go on trying."

Claire Colvin

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Screening campaign

One of the ironies of the *Lancet* report last week about the association between the Pill and breast and cervical cancer is that although GPs are paid £7.55 a year for each woman for whom they provide contraceptive care (which often means prescribing the Pill) they are paid only £5.60 for performing a cervical if the woman is over 35 or has had three children, and then only every five years.

It is widely recognized that this financial policy runs counter to current clinical evidence that the younger a woman becomes sexually active the more susceptible she is to cervical cancer.

But the picture is not all gloomy: cervical cancer, if picked up early enough, can be treated successfully and, though screening programmes are patchy, where they do exist they are effective.

In Tayside, for example, doctors start screening girls as soon as they become sexually active and there is no lower age limit. Dr. Hilda Duguid, in charge of the cervical cytology department at Dundee Royal Infirmary, points out that it is difficult for smears to be taken perfectly each time so, after the initial one, taken, say, when a girl is 17, another is taken a year later and, if there is no sign of abnormality, she is put into a three-year cycle of screening.

With about 75 per cent of Tayside girls being screened, the number of deaths associated with cervical cancer has been reduced by a half.

Drug leaflets

A prescription from the doctor may one day bring with it some helpful written details on the drug you are to take.

Doctors at Southampton University have been investigating the giving of information leaflets to patients and found that they could have distinct benefits.

Professor William Waters and his colleagues, with the help of a team of experts, devised leaflets for patients receiving penicillin for infections and patients prescribed anti-inflammatory drugs. The leaflets gave simple information on how to store and take the drugs and instructed patients to tell their GPs if they had, or developed, certain symptoms. He tried them on 99 patients.

The study, reported in the *British Medical Journal*, shows that the patients were much more likely to take their medicine properly if they received leaflets.

Pill panic



Women shocked by Dr Malcolm Pike's disclosures that the Pill can increase their chances of getting breast cancer have been seeking an answer to the obvious question: what then are their chances of getting the disease? Unfortunately, the answer is that for any individual it is impossible to tell. Dr Pike produced evidence that women who had taken certain types of the Pill for several years before the age of 25 would as a result run a substantially increased risk of getting breast cancer. But breast cancer rates are influenced by so many other factors such as age and family history that judging the relative risks in each case would mean ploughing through a statistical minefield.

If you're a woman who has taken the Pill for five or more years while young don't get trapped into the seemingly logical argument: one in 17 women get breast cancer, and therefore the chances of getting the disease have been increased by 400 per cent, or odds of one in four. This depressing statement would not be correct.

Younger women will be relieved to know that women don't usually develop breast cancer until their 50s. It is extremely rare in women under 30 years of age; the incidence is around one in 5,000 in women in their early 30s.

Self-medication



As the NHS hits hard times one more under consideration by the Department of Health which could cut costs is to make more drugs available at the pharmacy without a doctor's prescription. Already this year two drugs, one for diarrhoea and one pain killer, have moved from prescription only medicine status to pharmacy status, and the signs are that more are on the way.

The idea would be that where remedies for certain conditions have been available on prescription for at least five years and have proved to be especially safe, sufferers would be able to buy them directly over the chemist's counter.

The Department pleases the Department because the NHS won't have to pay for the prescriptions or the GPs' time; it pleases the manufacturers who see new markets opening up; and pleases pharmacists who want to play a greater part in health care.

The Pharmaceutical Society has drawn up a list of drugs which it would like to be made available without prescriptions and is discussing this with the Department of Health.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

Looking back in anger at the Pill

COMMENT

The fight from sexual paradise is gathering speed. After 20 years of so-called liberation, we are now told that free love gives you herpes, male love gives you AIDS and the Pill can give you cancer.

The difference among these various hazards is that some you catch, the other is handed out by doctors.

The medical profession says about the Pill: "Don't panic!" It has done so ever since the first scare stories filtered through. Doctors switch pills from high dosage to low; they make arbitrary age barriers for safe use; they tell us that the risks attendant on pregnancy still far

outweigh the risks from taking the Pill. We think that all is well because we have done it by the book. But then a researcher starts flipping back the pages and we find that retrospectively we are at risk.

But what can the doctors do? The sociological changes needed by reliable contraception available for the first time in history - have grown into an entire way of life. A generation of women believes that the choice whether to have sex, or how many children to have, is their birthright.

Groups have sprung up to campaign against the unpleasant side-effects of this social change. Abortion - society's traditional safety net for unwanted babies - has

become an issue. Contraception itself has not, for the argument is that precautions are better than "cure".

Middle-aged women, still 10 years from natural infertility, have been the first to feel the effects of doubts about the Pill. This generation, the first to luxuriate in sexual freedom, has had the pill snatched away at 35 or even younger. For the first time they had to rediscover traditional ways of keeping their growing families from growing larger. The boom in "late" babies and sterilization for both men and women is witness to the present situation.

If I were a man, I would not follow women as medical science's guinea pigs. Not on my life.

right and the women's problem. But it is when men have reached maturity and are husbands and parents that they face a joint decision with their wives about advice to abandon the pill.

The answer might be the much-vaunted male pill - a subject as deep as the Channel tunnel and apparently as long in its gestation. Is there a Brave New World ahead when the risks of the Pill will be shared month by month between consenting partners, so that the distant risk of cancer could be equally shared?

If I were a man, I would not follow women as medical science's guinea pigs. Not on my life.

Suzy Menkes

Anyone for bearobics?

Pigs did it for George Orwell. Dead cats and their 101 uses did it for Simon Bond. Now bears look like doing it for Bridgid Hertridge. She stands to make her name - and a lot of money - out of a little fur and foam.

Bridgid's bears are sophisticated. They order by Barclaycard, work out their exercise in Bearobics classes and follow the K-Pop diet. Real exercise enthusiasts among them go to the gym after work and pump stuff.

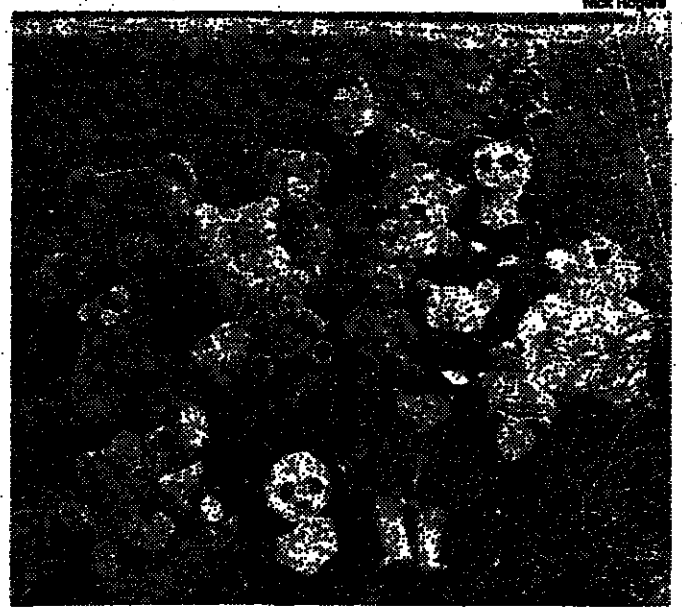
Hard on the heels of *Thin Thighs in Thirty Days* and numerous other self-help books comes *Every Bear's Life Guide*. Now teddies everywhere can be fulfilled, firm and furry in 14 days.

The Mc-Decade has finally reached bears. They are obsessed with cosmetic surgery, cholesterol and on-the-couch counselling. The front cover boasts mascot Jane Panda - fit, fabulous and furry - in her J.P. leg-warmers and leotard. As it is every bear's secret fantasy.

Bridgid Hertridge is not new to bears. Last year saw her bestseller, *How to Do Sex Properly*. "I wanted to write a spoof sex manual, and the only way for it not to look rude was to use bears to illustrate the positions," she explains.

She had wanted to write an irreverent life-guide for some time. "But, until I thought of using bears, the idea didn't seem any funnier than those already published," she adds.

She and husband Charles moved four years ago to a large house in North Devon with enough room to set up their own publishing company. The thought of bringing up three boys (and several teddy bears) in Twickenham was too much. "People are always telling us like to think we just publish very silly ones," said Charles as



Teddy Bears' picnic: Bridgid Hertridge and friends

we strolled across the Hertridge acres to admire their view of Lundy Island.

He thinks this latest book is destined for the wrong shelves in the bookshops. "I found our *Maggie Thatcher Colouring Book* in the Children's Section and *How to Do Sex Properly* under Medical."

Bears feature in their lives. I arrived at the house to find three boys (the eldest is called Teddy) and several bears awaiting me. That afternoon, they were holding a bring-a-bear party for the youngest child's birthday, and 14 boys had taken them at their word.

There were brown bears and white bears, koala bears and polar bears, assertive bears and diffident bears. The table was set with Paddington plates on a Paddington tablecloth, and there was plenty of honey for tea. "Children like bears," says

Bridgid, "but grown-ups like them even more. I took my bear to bed with me at the Frankfurt Book Fair. Today's children get more attached to plastic E.T.s. So her book is, in fact, a Pook-for-adults. Translated to bears, our obsessions with health, beauty and age look ridiculous," she says.

She has been influenced by women's magazines, body-building books and the film and folder of publishing houses - the all-colour life-guide. "I challenge the idea that a book has authority because it uses a famous name," she continues. "Jane Panda is the ultimate symbol. She may look terrific, but at what price? If you have to feel the burn, exercise even though it hurts or eat fibre even though you hate it, can't be right for you."

The current health revolution is a gift for her: satirical eye. In real-life mail-order catalogues,

you can order digital watches that monitor your pulse rate (bears must always check theirs before Bearobics). In her book, bears can order shrinkmats (plastic bags that help close up the pores) and that last word in early-morning luxury, the digital porridge-maker.

Prudent female bears plan for their pregnancy, and expectant bears opt for natural childbirth with the Dr. Lebar method. The New Age bear resists ageing with all his might. "You can still run a marathon in record time, do one-armed handstands on your windsurfer and disco dance until dawn," say Bridgid.

She may be pointing out the excesses of a narcissistic generation, but she's also sending herself up. A few years ago, she was persuaded to research a food value counter and a fibre guide.

"I believe in a healthy lifestyle, but I don't believe in taking it too seriously," she continued. "I always meant to jog, but never did. I went on the F-Pan diet and I preach 'no salt, no white bread' too."

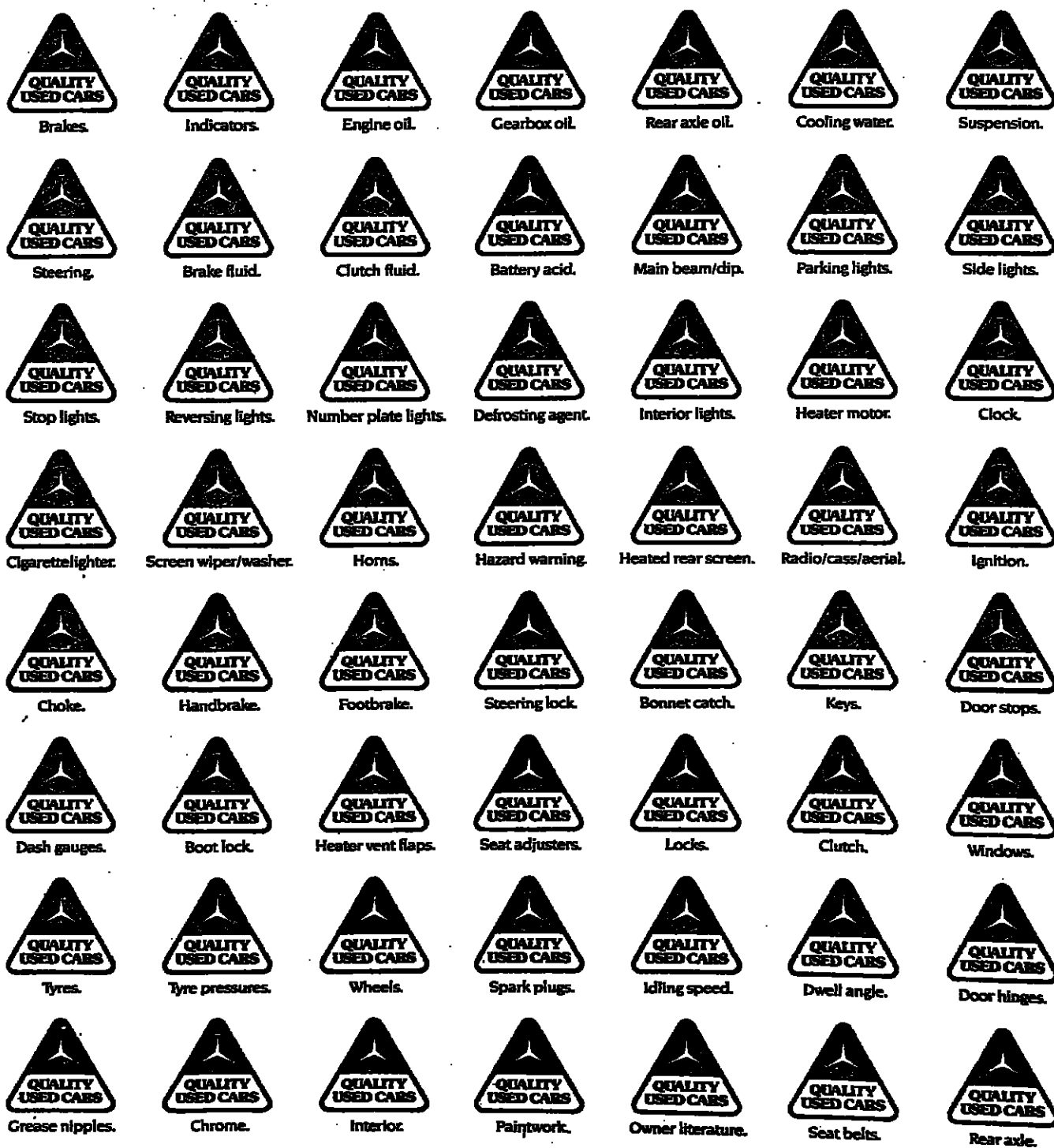
Her bears are having it all. They work towards a personal style. They can be housebears - "Shall I dress baby bear in blue or yellow today?" - or fight executive stress on their way to the top without losing their bear essential.

"Find your own style as long as it is your own style and not an image foisted upon you," counsels Bridgid. "You won't find fulfilment worrying 'am I overressed, are my thighs thin or do I look like Jane Fonda?"

Try telling that to Jane Panda...

Every Bear's Life Guide (Ebury Press, October 31, £3.95)

Deirdre Fernand



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THE TIMES DIARY

Letting things slip

The argument between Caroline Benn and W. H. Allen, publishers of Alfred Brown's biography of her husband, has now been resolved. Mrs Benn originally wanted publication of the book - *Tony Benn: The Making of a Politician* - to be delayed because she objected to passages about her children's upbringing and her views on English life. Publication went ahead. All future editions, however, will carry a polite erratum slip which reads: "Mrs Caroline Benn doesn't necessarily agree with everything in this book." She may have to wait some time for even this small satisfaction - there are no immediate plans for a reprint.

Swingling

Professor Magnus Ljung of Stockholm University has spent about £24,000 investigating the corruption of his language into Swenglish, for which he mainly blames English-language TV programmes. His study suggests that 86 per cent of Swedes feel they have fallen victim to Swenglish, while the remaining 14 per cent admit to a change in their speech and writing but are reluctant to assign reasons. Swedish teenage gangs *fajt* (fight) these days where they used to *släss*; they chat up the local *krumper* in their *tajt* (tight) jeans and say *bay bay* when it's time to go home. Even that dreadful Americanism "have a nice day" has been translated literally into a previously unknown Swedish cliché: *Ha en trevlig dag*.

Non-racy Lace

Communication between publishing houses about book titles could end some confusion. The V & A has increased the literary mud by adding *Lace* - *A History*, by the keeper of the museum's textile department, Santina Levey, to its booklist. An angry customer subsequently complained to the museum that she had been told it was "provocative" - but the only thing it provoked was "deep sleep". She might have been angrier still had she known that Shirley Conran's novel *Lace* - the book she really wanted - is now in paperback at a modest £2.50. The V & A book costs £59.

Red blockade

The Red Army nearly stopped Mr Andropov appearing on the front page of *The Times* yesterday. Our Moscow correspondent, Richard Owen, was at a cocktail party when he was tipped off that an Andropov statement was imminent. Racing back to his office, he found all roads blocked by an apparently endless stream of tanks and armoured cars rehearsing for the November 7 parade. Owen pleaded with a senior officer to let him pass, otherwise "Comrade Andropov will not be in *The Times*". The officer waved, then waved him through.

BARRY FANTONI



'The vomiting isn't serious, just keep him away from the news'

King Victoria

Rarely has Queen Victoria been portrayed on stage by a baritone and never (so far as we know) by the managing director of a major opera house. That distinction falls to Karl Dönch, head of the Vienna Volksoper, who, in December, will sing Victoria's role in a new musical based on the lives and work of Gilbert and Sullivan. The opera, entitled *G & S*, is set entirely to Sullivan's music. Professor Dönch has not given an explanation for his sudden return to the stage - he was an international opera singer before he turned to administration - but his pioneering role could well encourage Lord Harewood or Sir John Tooley to star, as, Empress Maria Theresa.

Unbookable

Ann Harris, South African-born writer and friend of the Booker winner, J. M. Coetzee, thinks it unlikely that the award will lure him to literary junkies. Not only is Coetzee the most private person she has ever known; he is also a vegetarian. The main course at the Booker dinner, which Coetzee wasn't there to eat, was roast duckling with orange sauce.

No female friend

Clive Bradley, chief executive of the Publishers' Association, was upset that Fay Weldon chose the Booker ceremony for her withering attack on publishers. "It's usually a time when we celebrate the merits of English literature," he said. He also complained that he heard of the impending attack only as he was about to enter the hall, fully expecting the judge's usual speech on the difficulty of choosing between such brilliant literary offerings.

PHS

Homage and the political image

Should David Owen by given an official place at the Cenotaph ceremony? Bernard Levin weighs up the arguments - and questions whether Remembrance Day should continue



be avoided if possible, as in this matter it is.

To sum up, the desire of the SDP to be represented at the Cenotaph is derived not from a wish to salute the dead (which they could all do just as well out of sight of the television cameras) but to gain the testimony of their seriousness as a political party that inclusion in the service would offer.

What of the Prime Minister? Dr Owen says that her refusal to include him is "petty and partisan - the act of the leader of the Conservative Party and not the act of the Prime Minister of the whole nation". So it is, too, precisely that. Indeed, I would go further and add that it is the conduct of a political clown, which I define as action which incurs political odium with no benefit of any kind to balance it.

You would have thought that, with the memory of Mr Foot's behaviour at the Cenotaph still green (he turned up in a kind of layabout's donkey-jacket and spent much of the ceremony moaning about and scratching himself), Mrs Thatcher would have been particularly careful to comfort herself as tact and dignity personified; perhaps she had forgotten another fictional leader, of whom, following his own participation in an even more dramatic Whitehall ceremony, it was written that

He nothing common did or mean

Upon that memorable scene....

Mrs Thatcher made it worse still by leaving it to the Home Secretary to tell Dr Owen of her decision not to allow him to be present at the Cenotaph, and Mr Brittan inter-

preted his instructions as obliging him to pretend that the situation as to who should be permitted to be there was so frightfully complicated that a full year, starting now, would be needed to sort it out, and in the meantime Dr Owen would have to stay away. (Mr Brittan has not yet claimed that Dr Owen's attendance would "open the door" to multiple claims from every group down to the Official Monster Raving Loony Party, but no doubt he soon will.)

I said that this was one of those rows that reflect no credit on any of the participants; perhaps it tends to emphasize and sharpen the worst characteristics of everybody concerned. Thus, this case has exacerbated Dr Owen's normally controlled tendency to indulge in cant, encouraged Mrs Thatcher's rare bouts of meanness, and emphasized the Home Office's instinctive gravitation to the Line of Most Malice. (So far, at any rate, Mr Cyril Smith has not been heard from, so all is not quite lost.)

Mr Kinnock, in wondering whether to join in, is in a difficulty. Should he try to obtain political advantage from the duty by publicly attacking the Prime Minister for her decision, or should he eschew such base considerations and try to obtain political advantage from the duty by quietly rejoicing in Dr Owen's rebuff? But possibly he feels that his most recent reference to the dead (those of Goose Green) was quite enough to last him a considerable time.

Perhaps we should take this opportunity to think more carefully

Bryan Appleyard meets the man about to reopen the Old Vic

Will Honest Ed's impulse pay off?

On being introduced to Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Martin Gilliat, private secretary to the Queen Mother, the first words of the new proprietor of the Old Vic Theatre were: "Hi, I'm Honest Ed." Toronto entrepreneur Ed Mirvish has been perpetrating such colonial indiscretions all over London with an amiable roughness. He revels in the role of the untutored wild man riding in with money to rescue yet another of the old country's impoverished institutions.

It was not something he planned. The Old Vic had a series of false starts after the departure of the National Theatre company to its South Bank bunker. The Royal Victoria Hall Foundation, the charity entrusted with the freehold, put it up for sale last year and it seemed just a question of time before Andrew Lloyd Webber's £500,000 bid was accepted.

But they had reckoned without Honest Ed. His lawyer had brought the sale to his attention on June 8. He had only three days to make up his mind. After a few hours thought he dispatched a clerk to London to put in a bid. Lloyd Webber, not a businessman by calling, had unwisely let the freehold be known.

Without ever setting eyes on the place he became the proud owner of the most famous theatre in the world and, without even realizing it, the luck of the Mirvishes held to the last - it now turns out that the National Theatre is interested in using the annex as a fourth auditorium. That would make a total of four theatres in The Cut, the



Ed Mirvish: a talent for filling empty seats

small busy street of which Ed now owns a substantial chunk.

In other words Ed may have a bargain on his hands. The Cut is ripe for commercial upgrading. It is only a stone's throw from the South Bank's arts complex and it has all the elements that place so conspicuously lacks - warmth, variety, life. A visionary gleam comes into his eyes when he thinks of the amount of street frontage he now owns. "This place," he muses, gesturing around the annex, "would make a great roast beef restaurant. I gotta guy could tell you where to put the ovens on the spot." But for the moment he is happy to consider the NT as potential client.

Honest Ed is 69 and was born in Virginia. The family moved to Toronto, where his father, an immigrant from Kiev, failed as an encyclopaedia salesman and opened a grocery shop in which young Ed began working at the age of nine.

"I told my kid David I started working at the age of nine and he just says, 'What were you before that, some kinda bum?'"

At the age of 15 he took over the store full time. It now employs 400 people. Anne, his wife, is a

sculptress and painter, a profession which inspired Ed to buy the street next to the store and turn it into an artist's colony known as Mirvish Village. "That's because I'm trying to keep a low profile," Ed jokes.

Twenty years ago the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto came up for sale and Ed moved in. It was dilapidated and surrounded by urban desolation. "I'd never been to the theatre, my wife always went," Ed says. The CN Tower was built next door, as well as a 75-storey office block that would provide thousands of ticket buyers a few yards from the theatre. The Royal Alex - regarded by many as the best-run theatre in North America - has 50,000 subscribers and regularly takes \$6.5m at the start of every season. He has proved to have a talent for filling empty seats. Next door, Ed's four restaurants with 2,500 seats are booming.

Ed's empire has flourished. He spends \$8m to noon each day at the store, noon to 2.30pm at the restaurants and then until 5 or 6pm at the theatre. He is usually in bed by 10pm.

London is a big gamble. It is Ed's first move out of Toronto, and he is

counting on his beloved subscription system to succeed here. He was told at once by other London theatre owners that it would never work, as 60 per cent of London audiences were visitors and subscription series need a resident audience. Ed is a hard man to unsettle. He never argues, he just tries things and if they don't work, he tries something else.

"I don't know the answer," he says. "If I knew the answer there would be no game. I've got no partners and no shareholders so I can indulge myself in being erratic. Some things I do may not be rational but, you know, in the end you have to make things work. If you don't then you're in trouble. I act on impulse."

The Old Vic impulse landed him with a refurbishment bill of £2m, twice what he expected. So far the subscription list has been disappointing at only 6,500. But the shows look promising and the theatre is magnificently restored, even down to old flags hanging above the stage. They are actually new flags cunningly aged.

Leigh, inherited as manager by Ed from the previous ownership, has been working frantically and in mild amazement at his employer. Accustomed to the administrative style of subsidized theatres, he evidently finds Ed's instinctive style unnerving. Ed himself is just amused: "I've got no training for this kind of thing, but Andrew's doing a wonderful job. He's having rehearsals for all the ushers and bar staff. We have rehearsals for nothing back home. It's organized chaos."

Ed is an innocent abroad and he encourages the impression. He wears patent leather shoes, a large gold watch and a flawlessly finished suit decorated with the Order of Canada with the air of a man who has made it and really appreciates the fact. On November 3 his new Old Vic plays host to the Queen Mother for a gala opening and the next day the critics move in. Professional opinion is split down the middle on whether he will fall flat on his face or not.

"In the end you just have to deliver," Ed says. "If you deliver and you have something people want, you're in business."

London is a big gamble. It is Ed's first move out of Toronto, and he is

One man in the dock, all Jews the target

Moscow The town of Vladimir, an ancient centre of Russian Orthodoxy, may seem an odd choice of venue for a Jewish cause célèbre. But Vladimir is known for its prison as well as for its cathedral, and is far enough from Moscow to have made it difficult for foreigners to attend the trial two weeks ago of Josef Begun.

The trial was in any event held in camera, because Begun, who conducted his own defence, was no ordinary defendant. He had been doggedly and courageously seeking permission to emigrate to Israel for 13 years. On October 14 the court handed down the verdict: seven years imprisonment followed by five years' internal exile.

It was his third sentence. Begun had already served two terms in Siberia for "parasitism" (having lost his job, he earned a living teaching Hebrew privately). This time the charge was distribution of anti-Soviet propaganda "on the instructions of foreign subversive centres". When released he will be 63.

Historically, the authorities have always drawn on antisemitism in Russia, and at the moment the Kremlin line is that Jewish emigrants are given favourable treatment under détente, and the good times are over.

Jewish emigration to Israel has certainly dropped dramatically since the heady days of the 1970s. A

decade ago an average of 25,000 Jews were leaving the Soviet Union each year. By 1983, the figure had dropped from nearly 10,000 in the previous year to 2,688. The year, according to Jewish groups in Russia and the West, only about 200 Russian Jews a month are being allowed out.

According to the Kremlin, this is because most of those who want to leave have already done so. What is more, officials assert, many would-be emigrants who say they want to go to Israel really want to go to the United States, and large numbers of Soviet Jews (no figures are given) who do go to Israel return to Russia eventually with "lives wrecked, hopes crushed and trust betrayed".

As with most Soviet propaganda, some of this is true: many Jews do go to the United States, and some are disillusioned with Israeli life with the economic problems and necessity for social adjustments. Soviet accounts, however, tend to gloss over the principle that emigration is a right rather than a privilege (at least as enshrined in the Helsinki agreements) and that this includes the right to re-emigrate. It also, for that matter, includes the right to be disillusioned. Above all, according to Jewish "refuseniks", it is not true that only a few would-be emigrants (like Mr Begun) are left on the waiting list, they say, runs into

thousands, perhaps tens of thousands.

Paradoxically, at a time when it is claiming that the number of applicants for exit visas has become a mere trickle, the Kremlin has announced that it is speeding up the complex procedures involved in emigration. A recently issued pamphlet noted that forms had been simplified, state duty halved, customs procedures pared down, and documentation reduced. Under the new regulations, applicants can be appeal every six months. On the other hand, the same pamphlet contains the astonishing assertion that if a citizen has applied for an exit visa this does not "as a rule" affect his position at work.

A large number of "refuseniks" - many of whom, like Joseph Begun, are scientists or engineers - turn out to be exceptions to the rule, and lose their jobs on the ground that they once had access to "state secrets" - a concept so broadly defined in Russia as to be meaningless.

The authorities contend that there is no discrimination against Jews, and point out that Yiddish is now taught in schools in the (remote) Jewish autonomous district of Birobidzhan. Most Russians Jews prefer to emphasize the "antisemitic" atmosphere noted by Mr Reagan, with repeated attacks in the press on "international Zionism"

and nasty caricatures of hooked-nosed Jews egging on "Israeli atrocities" in Lebanon.

The newspaper *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, which has a Russian nationalist tinge, recently asserted that Jews control Western finance, politics and mass media, and are shaping "anti-Soviet attitudes" in the West. Not to be outdone, *Red Star*, the armed forces paper, said Zionism was a "crack force of world reaction" whose "tentacles" were everywhere.

Russian Jews have also been disturbed by the formation in April of an "Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public", which contains a number of Jewish figures, including General David Dragunsky. The committee has launched attacks after attacks on "Zionism", rejecting charges that in Russia anti-Zionism shades into antisemitism.

Why Russian antisemitism, which historically has waxed and waned, should have resurfaced now is not clear, beyond the fact that Israel's actions in Lebanon have given the Kremlin a focus for anti-Jewish feeling. In Russia it is even more difficult than elsewhere to distinguish between criticism of the Jewish state and prejudice against Jews. Far from making that crucial distinction clear to Russians, the Kremlin has deliberately blurred it.

Richard Owen

David Watt

A vacuum Europe should fill

The most significant thing about the Grenada affair is that the British are making such a tremendous fuss about it. Why is it that Lyndon Johnson's very similar invasion of the Dominican Republic in 1965 earned a good deal of criticism in this country as well as in the Organization of American States and the UN, but on nothing like the scale of the present furor?

The objects of the American exercise are ones that the majority of people here ought to sympathize with. A loony, but relatively mild, left-wing dictatorship in a newly independent member of the Commonwealth had been overturned in favour of an even less savoury bunch of crooks whom some of our closest and most level-headed friends in the Caribbean (notably Edward Seaga, the Prime Minister of Jamaica) were genuinely scared of.

The American intervention was short on legality as well as diplomatic tact, and for that reason Mrs Thatcher's "reservations" were rational and apt. The debts of the operation almost certainly exceed the credits. Nevertheless now that the deed is done it seems odd to say the least, that so many people on both sides of the British political divide should be pretending that there are no "plusses" at all and generally going on as if the Americans had dropped a nuclear bomb on the Isle of Wight without asking permission.

Part of the answer, obviously, lies in the tactics of British politics. The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary have been frozen for the moment in an attitude of undignified helplessness, and in these circumstances a cynical old bruiser like Denis Healey is not going to be restrained by the Queensberry Rules of the western alliance from putting the boot in. But that isn't the whole story. There is a strong, even hysterical, mood of anti-Americanism about the discussion - predictable perhaps in the Labour Party but surprisingly so in the media and the Conservative Party as well.

It is not easy to separate the constituent elements of this state of mind. Some of it is undoubtedly injured pride of a very simple kind, connected with a vague feeling that Grenada is a "British" island. It was, as one British official quellingly put it the other day, "infelicitous" of the Americans to assume that the Queen's representative in Grenada, the Governor-General, would automatically be at their beck and call to lend a cloak of official respectability to the foundation of a new Grenadian government.

More seriously, perhaps, is the idea that the Americans are in some way betraying a bargain. Mrs Thatcher, and Mr Callaghan before her, put a great deal of money on the Anglo-American special relationship and their supporters expect to see something for it in the way of consultation and respect.

This point about consultation is liable to gross misuse and the moral drawn by the left about it and the use of nuclear weapons in Europe is sensational. What is real, however, is the argument that outside Nato, where there is no restraining

machinery or even alliance agreement on guidelines for action, the US government could easily embroil its unwilling partners in a third world war without any consultation whatever.

There is nothing new in this situation except for one crucial point: people simply do not trust the present US administration. It is one thing to entrust the fate of the world into the untested hands of an Eisenhower, a Kennedy, a Johnson, a Nixon - or even a Carter. For all their faults and excesses, they always appeared in the last resort to draw back from a superpower confrontation if they could possibly avoid it. (The 1962 Cuban missile crisis was not of President Kennedy's choosing.)

President Reagan, by contrast, actually seems to relish East-West conflict and seek it out; and his action in Grenada derives its gravity from the widespread assumption that even if it turns out alright this time, it is typical of a second-rate, trigger-happy old fantasist and is the harbinger of other dangerous idiocies to come.

The alliance can put up with a certain amount of this kind of thing because it has to. But in the long term it is highly corrosive.

In truth, the moral is as plain as it can possibly be: we cannot be certain of influencing American policy unless we can make ourselves indispensable to the policy-making process. And we cannot make ourselves indispensable unless we are prepared to shoulder serious responsibility.

In the case of Grenada, we incontinently handed over independence four years ago to an irresponsible autocrat, we left very little by way of economic dowry and we have taken few subsequent steps to keep an eye on our former possession. Indeed, under Labour, as the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee's report on the Caribbean has very amply demonstrated, we effectively turned our back on the whole area, and have kept it firmly turned under the Conservatives. Mrs Thatcher's threat to leave Belize confirms the fact.

Having left this vacuum we must not be surprised to find the Cubans on the one hand and the US on the other attempting to fill it without, in either case, paying too much attention to our wishes; and we certainly have no business to indulge in the luxury of resenting the fact. In short, of the two, the Americans are taking more care to become the more effective presence.

Britain alone no longer has the resources to play the leading role in this kind of regional affair. But Europe as a whole certainly has an overpowering interest in Third World stability and in restraining the US from rash ventures to promote it - whether in the Caribbean, the Middle East or in Africa. The Grenada incident offers further proof of this necessity and further proof of the urgent need to set up new machinery which would offer genuine European cooperation to the US in return for genuine consultation.

Philip Howard

Drive and rule, friend of my youth

Come the Revolution, the last stand by the Old Guard will be made not outside the dingy premises of Pratt's, nor in the bunker of the Jewel Tower beside the House of Lords. It will be made across the road from Gullane, between Edinburgh and North Berwick. There, behind a parapet of sandbags, the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers will beat off the horde of revolutionaries and win with their sand wedges until the last old man falls.

Women are allowed into the sanctum of the red sandstone clubhouse, which is stuffed with the crown jewels of golfing history, only to wait on the members and clean up after them. Sunday lunch there is the apotheosis of a boarding schoolboy's dream, with Yorkshire pudding, and gravy, and custard, and tracheotomy, and 16 other sorts of pudding. The oldest golf club in the world is a temple to the unchanging simple pleasures of the ruling classes.

It is not a club or a course for the diffident. Those of us whose knees turn to jelly if anybody watches us on the tee, or if we have to choose between jelly and brandy-snaps at the head of the lunch queue, are at a disadvantage at Muirfield. It is not the place for Wodehouse golfers, with whom I identify: "The last thing upset him on the links. He missed short punts because of the uproar of butterflies in the adjoining meadow."

Stunk irrevocably in that terrible island bunker on the right of the eighteenth green, I was so mortified by the pawky old faces leering at me over their large ports from the bow window of the clubhouse that I picked up my ball, threw it at the pin, and holed out in the long bunker that runs down the whole left side of the green.

Now I hear that Colin Innes is to become the new Secretary of the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers at Muirfield on December 1. This is aging news. I know that policemen and chairmen of the Conservative Party are looking younger every day; come to think of it, John Selwyn Gummer looks not so much young as newly born middle-aged. I have friends of my youth who have suddenly become professors or Cabinet ministers.

But the Secretary of the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers is a patriarchal and Jehovah-like figure. A long white beard may not be compulsory, though several

secretaries have worn such things, but it is *de rigueur* for a senior statesman of the golfing world. And my problem is that I can think of Colin only as I first met him, a young subaltern built like a pine tree in a Black Watch kilt, leading his platoon on forced marches in full kit through the peculiarly dense heather that grows around Dumfries.

What is this striding doing in chitche of Muirfield, I ask? Has he the gravitas to keep order among all those terrifying old writers to the Signet and the wear of the Royal Company of Archers? We must hope so. But I can see that we are going to have to give up chucking balls around the eighteenth green.

Now that Colin is Secretary, there may be a chance to change at last the more irritating Rules of Golf. The Honourable Company formulated the first regulations for playing the game, now known with appropriately ecclesiastical resonance as "The Thirteen Articles". This code of 1744 was adopted almost word for word when the nouveau and Johnny-come-lately golfers of St Andrews drew up their rules a decade later. They still form the basis of the present rules.

The rule that seems to me most in need of modification at present is the section of Rule 26 "Ball in Motion/Stopped or Deflected" that concerns hitting oneself with one's own ball. I found myself this summer at the bottom of a deep bunker (surprise, surprise) on the municipal course of Girvan, which runs partly beside the sea, partly beside the river, and quite a lot of the time into one or the other. I struck a powerful blow with my trusty, rusty, woman's masher mallet; and as usual the ball hit the lip of the bunker, trickled back, and hit my foot as I stood there rooted in disbelief and anguish.

"Two strokes," said my opponent and godson, an irreverent boy. When I demurred, he pulled out the Rules of Golf from his bag (he is that sort of golfer; he plays to win, not for the adventure) and read me Rule 26. Well that one is going to go, now that we have our own young man at Muirfield. It adds a hitherto unsuspected peril to playing out from trees, though I have managed in any time to hit myself with the ball off the tee.

Golf is the best game in the world at which to be bad. But there is no need to make it harder than it is already.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

AN AUSPICIOUS DEBUT

The Police and Criminal Evidence Bill was a principal casualty of the summer's premature general election. Good has come of that. The pause and a new Home Secretary have prompted a reassessment of the force of the criticism directed at some of the Bill's chief provisions. It now reappears with the amendments already won in the House of Commons and with others of considerable importance made by Mr Leon Brittan.

At the same time he has brought forward or sharpened up proposals for flanking measures directed to the independent investigation of complaints against the police, the tape recording of the interviews of suspects at police stations, and a prosecution service independent of the police forces. The relevance of these matters to the substance of the Bill is that they bear on the chief sources of public mistrust of the police; and it is that mistrust which is the main reservation about giving the police more comprehensive powers to prevent crime and pursue criminals, even when it can be seen that they need them. They are confidence-building measures, and the emphasis the Home Secretary now gives them improves the acceptability of his Bill.

The core of the Bill defines and regulates police powers of search, arrest, questioning and detention before and after charge. That is an area in which the law as it has evolved is lamentably defective and imprecise, much having been left to the imperfect regulation of the Judges' Rules. In giving statutory definition to the powers at the disposal of the police and the rights belonging to the citizen in the relevant circumstances, the Bill strikes a new balance between the requirements of law enforcement and protection from oppression.

The Bill as now drafted achieves a reasonable balance, on paper. The trouble is that of necessity a discretion to override some safeguards in some circumstances (access to a lawyer, for instance) is given to senior police officers, and that discretion is abusable. Also, however precise the statutory language and however detailed the codes of practice having legal or disciplinary force, the situation embracing a suspect and the policeman in whose hands he is is so unequal that breaches of the rules or codes may be very difficult to establish and bring

home. It is for the possible abuse that an extension of police power is feared. Hence the importance of the flanking measures to improve confidence.

Of these, the new proposals for supervision and if necessary direction of the investigation of the more serious types of complaint against the police go as far along the road of independent scrutiny as it is possible to go without creating a corps of para-police to do the work. Since that further step is of dubious extra value in arriving at the truth, we should settle for what is now on offer. It is an advance on what was proposed before.

The independent prosecuting service which is to be created from an amalgam of the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and police forces' existing prosecuting solicitors' departments, all under the supervision of the Attorney General, will, along with other benefits, do something to reduce the scope for corrupt threats or favours in the exercise by policemen of a discretion to institute proceedings. This will require separate legislation which will not come before the next session of parliament at the earliest.

The question of tape recording is left in a less satisfactory state. The Government, not unreasonably, requires a trial period before the general introduction of the practice. The Bill, in another of Mr Brittan's additions, now places a duty on the Home Secretary to issue a code of practice and to order the recording of interviews. Neither a date for the coming into force of that provision nor the scope of the order is laid down.

The Home Office wants two years from next January for their trials, then evaluation, then comes the question of availability of resources, then the fitting of the equipment. It looks like three or four years at best. Meanwhile novel powers of detention for questioning will have come into operation, without an evidential recording being available, the value of which is not only to give protection to suspects but also to dispose of false allegations of misconduct against police witnesses, and eliminate much time-wasting wrangling from criminal trials.

The initial absence of tape recording makes it all the more pertinent for parliament to reconsider the clauses covering detention for questioning. This is something new as an explicit

power, though anything but new as a practice. The Bill permits the police to hold a person for questioning for up to 36 hours without charge and without judicial warrant, and he may in some cases be held incommunicado and without access to a lawyer. That is too long even as governed by the new code of practice for the detention, treatment and questioning of persons by the police.

That form of detention is an extreme invasion of liberty. It should not be permitted to go beyond 24 hours without the intervention of a magistrate; and application to the court should be renewed for each further period of 24 hours up to the total of 96 hours allowed for in the Bill. That reduction should not drastically impede the police, and detention for a longer period than 24 hours is rare enough in present practice to make close investigation by the court a practical possibility.

It is only in case of a "serious arrestable offence" that the extended period of detention would be permitted. That is a key expression in the Bill for it triggers application of a set of special or enhanced powers conferred on police and courts. When the Bill made its first appearance last year the expression meant little more than an arrestable offence (one carrying liability to five years' imprisonment or more) which seemed serious in the mind of a senior police officer. Some objective content was imported into the expression by amendment in the Commons. Now Mr Brittan has provided a new definition confining it in the first place to a schedule of major crimes such as murder, kidnapping, causing an explosion, rape; and in the second place to other offences which in the particular circumstances of the case meet clearly drawn criteria in the gravity of their likely consequences. This stricter definition tightens up the Bill throughout. It is the most important and improving of several major changes Mr Brittan has made.

All in all, the Home Secretary's new text shows he has carefully weighed the objections that have been sustained during the long debates about this measure in and out of parliament. He has responded readily and judiciously. If he continues to do so as the Bill makes progress, it will be a distinguished legislative debut in his new office.

I have the impression that there are a lot of tubs in the House whose owners are grateful for the chance to thump them. Yours sincerely, S.A. FOWLER, As of PO Box 203, White Rock, British Columbia, Canada, October 26.

Waning UK influence in Caribbean clears way for US

From Mr Simon A. Fowler

Sir, Your editorial, "Thin ice in the Caribbean" (October 26) got it right. In fact, Britain has been irrelevant in the area for at least two decades: the West Indian islands are part of the North American economic system. Would-be emigrants look to Miami or Toronto, not to Britain as their parents did.

It is quite reasonable for the Americans to try and clean up their back yard and for the leaders of Jamaica and Barbados to welcome their doing so. Britain, in the Caribbean, means cricket and charm.

The squeals of outrage about the "invasion" of a Commonwealth country are unjustified. If God forbid, there were a violent Leninist revolution in my own country I do not think that the Americans would ask Westminster's permission to try and stop it.

Two points have not been, and must be, made.

First, to talk pompously of an "attack on an independent state" is ridiculous. The "states" of the eastern Caribbean have no deep constitutional roots. They are makeshift arrangements to cope with the withdrawal of empire. Five people of the eastern Caribbean do not feel different from each other because of national identity, which is purely a matter of chance. Rather, the ex-British islands are a large family. They can and do interfere in each others' affairs all the time.

These states do not exist in isolation: there is hardly an island from which two or three other islands are not visible to the eye. Quelling trouble on a small island like Grenada is more akin to a police action than an invasion.

Secondly and most important: trouble spreads. Most Caribbean islands depend heavily on tourism and October is the start of the main tourist season. I think Mr Seaga, of Jamaica, and Mr Adams, of Barbados, have had at least five minutes of sleeplessness at the thought of all the cancelled bookings from easily scared North Americans due to "trouble in the region".

Naturally, the region's wellbeing means nothing to politicians who have never been there, don't care about its precarious economy, and don't care about the unemployment and distress due to lost tourism. Trinidad is the only country in the region to condemn the Americans because tourism is only a small part of her economy.

I have the impression that there are a lot of tubs in the House whose owners are grateful for the chance to thump them. Yours sincerely, S.A. FOWLER, As of PO Box 203, White Rock, British Columbia, Canada, October 26.

From Mr Alexander P. Ross
Sir, The Foreign Affairs Select Committee published its report on the Caribbean last year. One of the recommendations of that committee was that Britain's Diplomatic Service in the southern Caribbean

should be strengthened. Those of us who know these islands well can vouch that the deficiencies in that service were not only numerical.

Your leading article (October 26) on the US/Caribbean intervention in Grenada refers to "regional perspectives not so easily visible from London", but surely one of the main justifications for maintaining diplomatic representation abroad is to ensure that such perspectives are clearly visible from London.

Last week a sad saga reached its climax when power was assumed in a brutal fashion by a mentally deranged military commander who had already been labelled locally as the Idi Amin of the Caribbean. The United States and those Caribbean states that participated in the recent military intervention in Grenada can be proud of the action that they have taken.

My overriding feeling is one of relief that Grenada and the surrounding region has been freed from within. However, my feelings are tempered by a sadness that her Majesty's Government was apparently so out of touch with what was really happening in the region that its response to the request for help from the surrounding Caribbean nations and to subsequent events has proved to be so inept.

Yours faithfully, ALEXANDER P. ROSS, 25 Canon Street, Winchester, October 27.

From Mr D. J. M. Wilson

Sir, I am in favour of providing a proper defence of this country against the external threat posed by the Warsaw Pact. However, it would seem by their actions in Grenada that our American allies are prepared to brush aside the wishes of the British Government in going ahead with the invasion of an independent member of the Commonwealth.

In view of this attitude, I cannot imagine how any British Government could seriously countenance allowing the stationing of American nuclear arms in this country, the use of which will not be subject to the dual control of both governments.

Yours sincerely, D. J. M. WILSON, 8 Oakwood, Hexham, Northumberland, October 26.

From Mr Marcia MacGregor
Sir, What would the Government or the Opposition, if in office, have done about Britons in Grenada if America had not taken this decisive action? My daughter, a newly qualified doctor, teaching pathology in the American Medical School there, slipped out with some others by sailing boat last Friday until the situation had calmed down.

She has been in telephone contact with us from various islands in the Grenadines since then. We would have been out of our minds with anxiety by now had we relied only on the Foreign Office (whom I contacted) or the Government

pronouncements, which were virtually negligible.

Surely the Americans can be relied upon to judge more correctly a situation on their doorstep. They have the welfare of 600 medical students and many other Americans in cutting numbers and make even the hostages issue in Iran.

One really doubts that "trade sanctions" or "negotiating" would have been effective when one is dealing with mad dog temperaments inflamed by the hot Caribbean sun.

It is unfair to criticize America's action when Britain appears to have had no practical plan to protect its own citizens.

Yours sincerely, MERCIA MACGREGOR, Sourby New Farm, Tumble, Orkney, North Yorkshire, October 26.

From Mr Mark Steyn

Sir, Had previous British governments paid more attention to Sir Eric Gairy's blatant ballot-rigging, Grenada might have reached independence under a more honest Minister and recent events might never have occurred.

However, since they have, two aspects are of most importance: first, that a Commonwealth country, with the Queen as head of state, has been invaded by the United Kingdom's senior ally (an event without precedent); second, that when Grenada had fallen into the hands of a nasty, bloodthirsty and clearly unpopular regime the UK failed to support, diplomatically or militarily, her Commonwealth colleagues in the region.

Whichever one regards as the greater sin, the result is the same: her Majesty's Government has been shown to be impotent and irrelevant to the English Caribbean. The Grenadian invasion is a less obvious but perhaps more lasting humiliation than the Falklands, particularly for a Government which has made much electoral capital out of Britain's "increased respect and influence" in the world.

Lord Carrington did the decent thing and resigned; Sir Geoffrey Howe should do the same, for he will surely not be taken very seriously at the forthcoming Commonwealth Conference.

I am Sir, yours faithfully, MARK STEYN, 16 The Foxlands, Penzance, West Midlands, October 25.

From Mr David Green

Sir, The message of history is that prospects of re-election are much improved for a government which uses force to recover an offshore island from a regime that is domestically unpopular.

Since we wrote it, should we be surprised that President Reagan has read it?

Yours faithfully, DAVID GREEN, RYDING, 16 The Foxlands, Penzance, West Midlands, October 28.

Planning for leisure

From Mr Nicholas McKemey

Sir, Sir Ian Hunter's letter (October 24) proposing the establishment of a Council for Amateur Activities raises some interesting and important issues with regard to the role of art and craft in the lives of the general public.

At the heart of the matter lies the issue of what can be considered "leisure" and what "work". Many people who find creative fulfilment in their professional lives often express an inability to distinguish between the two concepts. It may well be the role of present and future art and craft education to further the distinction of this distinction.

To that end we should perhaps seek the ultimate convergence of different levels of art and craft education so that the present gulf between the trained specialist and the dedicated artist/craftsman who operates on a part-time basis may be bridged.

The obvious development required is the generation of high level part-time courses, designed to enable people to run a household or hold a job and develop a career, occupation or pastime in art, craft or design, or move progressively from one career structure to another.

The proposal to set up a body to promote "amateur activities" could well help give direction to those responsible (such as the Council for National Academic Awards and ministers for education) for the overall development of art and craft education. I thus wish to register my full support for his proposal.

Yours sincerely, NICHOLAS MCKEMEY, Principal, The Blackheath School of Art, 21 Lee Road, SE3, October 25.

the industry which must supply that investment.

Yours faithfully, M. MANSER (President, Royal Institute of British Architects), J. BARTLETT (President, Institute of Civil Engineers), R. CHIVERS (President, National Federation of Building Trades Employers).

G. HENDERSON (National Secretary, Building Construction and Civil Engineering Group, TGWU), J. STEVENSON (Chairman, Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors), A. TURNER (President, National Council of Building Materials Producers), C. WHEELER (President, QS Division, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors), L. WOOD (General Secretary, Trades & Technicians, Group of Eight, 66 Portland Place, W1).

Inland Revenue staff despair

From the General Secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation

Sir, Tomorrow there is a House of Commons debate upon the Civil Service. It is to be expected that ministers will rejoice at their success in cutting numbers and make even extravagant claims that, though much is still to be done, greater cost-effectiveness and efficiency abound.

My colleagues and I are this week completing a round of branch meetings. We have never sensed such hopelessness before; certainly we have never seen morale so low before - not even in 1977, when the Revenue came so close to breakdown over Denis Healey's sequence of Budgets.

Since 1979 staff numbers have been cut by over 13,000. There are another 1,600 to go by next April if the "target" to complete the Government's reduction programme is to be met. For the Revenue the figure is 69,850 staff, against 84,988 at the end of 1979.

Currently we have the annual half-yearly stage panic over efficiency - recruitment ban in case the year-end target is not met. So, for example, letters wait because a typist cannot be taken on.

By no manner of means is this reduction matched by corresponding cuts in function. Two major upheavals have been MIRAS (the new system for giving tax relief on mortgage interest paid) and TUBS (the taxation of benefits). We have had a round of "Rayner" schemes, some, if not all, of which have certainly not appeared credible to the staff expected to do the work, e.g., the decision to do away with three out of every four taxpayers' files.

At the last "count" of outstanding work (in July - another is due shortly and gossip is that it will show a worsened situation), unanswered "post" stood at five million, a 32 per cent increase in three months and 36 per cent higher than a year before. Nearly two million of these papers were a fortnight old, a quarter of a million two months old.

On the issue of tax assessments, one in five are still outstanding for 1981-82: over a million of these cases are for taxpayers normally paying at the higher rates of tax.

Despite the fact (see Public Accounts Committee's twenty-second report) that 1,870 investigation staff brought in £73m of extra tax, there is no prospect of the target of in-depth examination of only 3 per cent of self-employed accounts, 1 per cent of companies, being met.

This week we have the announcement that over 160 tax offices will close, including the only ones in 23 towns.

Before us lies the major move into the transfer of PAYE to computer operation. We have no agreement with the Government on this and I can assure all concerned that without, for example, guarantees about no redundancy, there is no mood around to be co-operative.

Perhaps it was best summed up yesterday by a quietly spoken lady in Sheffield: "I've been in Revenue for 20 years", she said, "I used to enjoy my job - now it's hell".

The truth is that today neither the public nor the Exchequer is being properly served.

Yours faithfully, TONY CHRISTOPHER, General Secretary, Douglas Houghton House, 231 Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1, October 27.

Transport subsidies

From Mr David Howell, MP for Guildford (Conservative)

Sir, Last year I was being criticised for moving too fast on the vexed question of subsidies to London Transport. This year you have decided to rewrite history and call it "dithering" (your third leader on Friday, October 21).

In fact the real dither took place in the GLC when they found that their "experiments" with London Transport, and the poor ratepayers, were illegal. For my part, I acted without delay to protect OAP concessionary fares, to give back subsidy legal protection, and to bring forward plans for better control of London Transport than could be provided by the South Bank politicians.

The record shows that the minister did not dither and *The Times* should not let its desire to score points overcome its respect for the facts.

Yours faithfully, DAVID HOWELL, House of Commons.

UK cheeses in France

From Mr Oliver Mason

Sir, In his most interesting letter (October 25) Mr Rance says cheddar is "the finest cheese in the world". This opinion is not shared by all.

I recall a conversation I had about cheeses of the world with a Frenchman, who showed little interest in British cheeses in general but who described Stilton as *la reine des fromages*.

I remember being surprised and delighted on two counts: first that a Frenchman should award the palm to a British cheese, and secondly that although *fromage* is masculine the sovereign cheese was *la reine*.

Yours faithfully, OLIVER MASON, Ridge House, Jonas Lane, Wadhurst, East Sussex.

Devil may care

From Mr Christopher Russell

Sir, It is noticeable that in all this discussion about the femininity of God, the masculinity of the Devil goes unchallenged. This is unfair - and revealing.

Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER RUSSELL, 12 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

FRIGHTENING GESTURES

Now that the deployment of cruise and Pershing II missiles in Western Europe is practically inevitable, the Soviet Union is spelling out its responses. Two measures have been announced so far: the deployment of new missiles in Eastern Europe and withdrawal from the Geneva negotiations. Neither brings the end of the world much closer. The new missiles have been under development for a long time and would certainly have been deployed anyway. Only the timing of the announcement has any relevance. The intention is presumably to frighten the West Europeans into putting pressure on the Americans to make still more concessions at Geneva.

However, it also has the effect of making the Soviet Union look somewhat less pacific than it normally likes to appear. Withdrawal from the Geneva talks could also rebound on the Soviet Union. It has been clear all along that the Soviet aim at Geneva was not to achieve an agreed balance but to prevent any Western deployments at all. This is now confirmed by Mr Andropov's announcement that

deployments would make continuation of the negotiations impossible. There is no reason at all for this to be so if the Russians are genuinely interested in a balanced agreement. It makes sense only as an admission that the Soviet Union had only one objective - to stop all Western deployments - and that having failed to achieve this there is nothing left to talk about.

The small beginnings of these deployments make no noticeable difference to the military balance. Indeed, even the full deployment of 572 weapons is of more political than military significance, and the Russians know this perfectly well. If they saw a serious military threat to logical response would be to stay at the negotiating table as long as possible. As it is, they are making a political gesture in response to a largely political undertaking by the West.

At some point they will have to find their way back to the table unless they are to lose all credibility. They can no longer claim that the Americans have been too unyielding. This was certainly true in the early stages

of the negotiations, largely because disagreements in Washington made it impossible to prepare coherent negotiating positions. Gradually, however, partly under pressure from the Europeans, the Americans began to make serious and significant concessions. For instance, they agreed to consider an equal level of warheads between 50 and 450. The Soviet negotiators were not interested. Then the Americans relaxed their insistence on balancing Soviet medium range systems in the Far East - their right to do so would be upheld but not exercised in practice. Next they agreed to count Pershing IIs separately from cruise missiles instead of insisting on freedom to decide the mix under a common ceiling. They also said they were willing to accede to the Soviet desire to discuss limits on specific types of aircraft on both sides. Still the Soviet negotiators did not budge. If they now walk out the West can do little more than ensure that the door remains genuinely open for the day when the Soviet Union decides that the time for serious negotiation has arrived.

Regardless of what political advantage there may have been derived subsequently, in regard to the Falkland Islands factor, I am bound to say that I have never heard such idiotic nonsense. As for the reference to the Falkland Islands

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If this happens, as is likely, the NYB will be the third important national body within the purview of the DES where, within a short period of time, representative leaderships have been replaced by individuals appointed by the department, the other two being the

Parliament seems to have done nothing for the unprotected third party.

The law has to strike a balance. It has to weigh the right of an accused person freely to state his case to the jury trying him, the right of the public to full information as to what is happening in the courts, and the right of someone outside the trial to be protected from harmful publicity against which he cannot defend himself. That balance should be struck by the judge who hears the case. In the present state of the law, it may well be that the Recorder did not have the power to make his order. If that is so, something is lacking in our legal system. Meanwhile others without recourse to effective legal representation may well find themselves to be hapless victims of open justice.

The ban (since lifted) imposed by the Recorder of London on publication of the name of Mr Edward Heath raises a point of some importance. It concerns the position of anyone who is made the target of damaging allegations in court proceedings in which he is not involved. The publicity is just as harmful whether he is a public figure like Mr Heath or a private citizen like the police officer mentioned in the case. The innocent third party has no redress at law. He cannot be represented in the proceedings or cross-examine his attacker, or call evidence himself to rebut the allegations; he cannot sue for defamation because such statements when made in court are privileged; nor (normally) can he issue a public denial of the allegations before the conclusion of the proceedings, even if he can find someone to publish it, because of the risk

of prejudicing the trial and so being in contempt of court.

The principle of open justice requires that, except where matters of national security are involved, criminal trials should be held in public, and that the press should have the right to report what has been said in court. But there have to be limits. The judges have always had jurisdiction to restrain publication of matters disclosed in open court where the due administration of justice might otherwise be prejudiced, as in the case of the anonymous blackmail victim or the police informer. Parliament has extended this jurisdiction over the years. A striking example is the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1976, which restricts publication of the names of the accused as well as of the complainant in a rape case. But

A Falklands myth

From Lord Shackleton

Sir, In his interview with Andrew Thompson (reported in *The Times* of October 18) Mr Costa Mendez, in replying to the question as to why Britain reacted in a much stronger fashion than he had imagined, alleged that the Prime Minister was motivated "by the possibility of reviving the powers of empire" supported by "the powerful lobbies of the Falkland Islands Company, the Royal Navy, and the British Antarctic Survey".

Regardless of what political advantage there may have been derived subsequently, in regard to the Falkland Islands factor, I am bound to say that I have never heard such idiotic nonsense. As for the reference to the Falkland Islands

Youth Bureau enquiry

From Mr Max Morris

Sir, May I comment upon a matter of some public importance? Mr Geoffrey Cockerill, a retired civil servant, appointed by the Department of Education and Science to conduct an enquiry into the National Youth Bureau, has recommended that the bureau's representative council (on which sit all the national youth organisations, the local education authorities, the teachers, etc.) and its elected executive be replaced by a management committee appointed by the department.

If this happens, as is likely, the NYB will be the third important national body within the purview of the DES where, within a short period of time, representative leaderships have been replaced by individuals appointed by the department, the other two being the

Cuts in construction

From the President of the Royal Institute of British Architects and others

Sir, You report today (October 21) that the Cabinet has decided to set up a "star chamber" under Viscount Whitelaw to consider the arguments for various public spending programmes. Our industry has more cause than most to be keenly interested in those arguments.

A few days ago your columns stated that the Cabinet had decided to cut capital investment and "living off the balance-sheet". Our industry has been the chief victim. Construction output has been reduced by 15 per cent, employment by some 20 per cent and apprentice intakes by 35 per cent.

Investment in roads, housing,

Company (a wholly owned subsidiary of Coalite) and British Antarctic Survey, they were no doubt surprised, and possibly even amused by this description.

In particular, British Antarctic Survey, as a scientific organisation, has as such tried to keep out of politics. If there is an area of political concern for them it is the preservation of the Antarctic Treaty whose efficacy has, it is hoped, not been too seriously impaired by events in the south-west Atlantic.

Regrettably, this element of self-deception and myth on the part of Argentine leaders does not augur well for a sensible solution to the "geo-political" issues in the future.

Yours faithfully, SHACKLETON, House of Lords, October 26.

Secondary Examinations Council and the Curriculum Council

While the aversion of the mandarins of the DES to the processes of democracy and their preference for matters of public concern to be controlled by their own carefully sifted appointees is well known in the educational world it is surely time that the wider issues involved were more widely debated.

One would like to know, for example, whether departments other than the DES, which is notoriously resistant to public scrutiny and has done little or nothing to implement the Fulton recommendations on professionalism, are behaving in the same way. Is there a Government directive which is being generally applied or is it just the DES effect of their decisions on the ground of their customary disregard for public opinion?

Yours etc, MAX MORRIS, 44 Coolhurst Road, N8, October 24.

sewerage, environmental works and other essential infrastructure has suffered. So much so that less than 44 per cent of our national budget is now set aside by Government for renewing capital assets.

The impact of such Government action upon the construction industry is massive, yet often overlooked in the public expenditure review procedures. It now behoves Lord Whitelaw and his colleagues, if they are to do their duty by future generations, to look hard at the effect of their decisions on the resources and efficiency of this most basic investment industry, and not simply short-term expediency.

Our group brings together unions, employers, professionals, and materials suppliers to this important industry. We are united in our concern that the Government's expenditure decisions of today should not wreak irreparable damage to our investment in the society and economy of tomorrow and to

the industry which must supply that investment.

Yours faithfully, M. MANSER (President, Royal Institute of British Architects), J. BARTLETT (President, Institute of Civil Engineers), R. CHIVERS (President, National Federation of Building Trades Employers).

G. HENDERSON (National Secretary, Building Construction and Civil Engineering Group, TGWU), J. STEVENSON (Chairman, Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors), A. TURNER (President, National Council of Building Materials Producers), C. WHEELER (President, QS Division, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors), L. WOOD (General Secretary, Trades & Technicians, Group of Eight, 66 Portland Place, W1).

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Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony HiltonCity Office
200 City of London Road
London EC3A 6EJ
Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 694.0 up 4.0
FT 100 Shares 432.54 up 0.86
(Datastream estimate)
Bargains 19.15
Datastream US\$ Leaders
Index 92.62 down 0.28
New York Dow Jones
Average (latest): 1240.85
down 2.95
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones
Index 9,323.09 up 76.54
Mongkong Hang Seng
Index 815.28 up 17.43
Amsterdam 145.8 up 1.1
Sydney AO Index 676.6
down 0.6
Frankfurt Commerzbank
Index 1003.4 down 5.8
Brussels General Index
123.30 down 0.8
Paris CAC Index 141.2
unchanged
Zurich SKA General 289.9
unchanged

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling 1.4940 down 25pts
Index 83.5 down 0.1
DM 3.5125 up 0.0125
FF 11.9250 up 0.0240
Yen 347.50 down 0.50
Dollar Index 126.4 unchanged
DM 2.6185

NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling \$1.4945
Dollar DM 2.6180
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 20.576301
SRE 20.708816

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 10
Discount market loans week
fixed 9½-9
3 month interbank 9½-9½
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9½-9½
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9
Treasury long bond 102½-103
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme
Average reference rate for
interest period September 7 to
October 4, 1983 inclusive:
9.719 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$384.50 pm \$384.50
close \$383.50 (\$256.75)
New York latest: \$383.50
Kruggerand (per cent):
\$394.50-396 (\$264-265)
Sovereigns (new):
\$90-91 (\$60-61)
Excludes VAT

TODAY

Interlms: Aero Needles
Group, Clayton, Son & Co.,
Cole Group, GT Global Recov-
ery Investment Trust, Hopkin-
sons Holdings, Savoy Hotel,
John C. Small & Tidman, TR
Industrial & General Trust,
Websters Group.
Firms: Burgess Products,
Transvaal Consolidated Land &
Exploration, Ulster Television.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Lawrie Plantation, 1 Hobart
Place, SW11 (11.00);
Sheldon Jones, Royal Bath
and West Showground, Shep-
ton Mallet, Somerset (12.00);
Smith Bros., Institute of Char-
tered Accountants, Moorgate
Place, EC2 (12.15);
Whitaker Electric, Great
Western Royal Hotel, Padding-
ton, W1 (3.00).

Lonrho buys Playboy Club

Lonrho, the international
trading company and London
Casino owner, yesterday named
itself as the buyer which paid
£10m for the former Playboy Club in Park
Lane.
But the group refused to say
whether it would re-apply for a
gaming licence to return the
roulette wheels to London's
most famous gambling club,
which lost its licence two years
ago after Gaming Board and
police objections.

● North Sea oil production
reached a record average daily
production last month 2.4
million barrels worth about
£476m, compared to the pre-
vious record of 2.31 million
barrels in February.

● Mr Jack Aaronson, the
accountant who rescued the
GRA greyhound racing group in
the mid-1970s, yesterday re-
signed as executive chairman
and as a director. He has been
replaced by solicitor Mr Isidore
Kerman, aged 78, who heads a
consortium which acquired a 27
per cent interest in June.

● Company liquidations rose 7
per cent in the third quarter to
3,700 adjusted for seasonal
factors. Bankruptcies rose by 8
per cent to 1,890, according to
the magazine *British Business*.

Government to halve its 45% stake in telecommunications group

Cable & Wireless share sale will help meet asset disposal target

By Jonathan Davis,
Financial Correspondent

The Government will sell another large chunk of its shareholding in Cable & Wireless before April in order to ensure that it meets the Treasury's asset sale target of £1.250m this financial year.

Announcing this in the House of Commons yesterday, Mr John Moore, the Financial Secretary at the Treasury, said the Government intended to sell about half its 45 per cent shareholding in the telecommunications group.

The precise timing of the sale and the amount of shares to be sold will depend on market conditions but the expectation in the City last night was that the sale would be achieved by a placing of shares with City investment institutions, rather than by an offer for sale.

Cable & Wireless was one of the first of the government's large privatization issues, in its first term. A fraction under 50 per cent of the shares were



Sharp: vociferous support for privatization.

floated on the market in November 1981, raising £225m. The Government's shareholding has since fallen to 45 per cent following the company's cash-and-shares acquisition of the Hongkong Telephone Company earlier this year.

The Government holds 204 million shares in Cable & Wireless. Taking last night's closing price of 260p as an

illustration, selling 100 million of these would raise £260m before expenses.

This is the kind of sum that Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, needs to raise to be sure of getting near his £1.25m asset sale target, given that the flotation of the Enterprise Oil company — the holding company for British Gas's former North Sea oil assets — is not considered feasible before the next financial year.

So far this year Mr Lawson has received £293m from the second tranche of payments on last year's Britoil flotation, and £540m from the sale of BP shares last month. Another £80m is expected from the sale of British Gas's onshore oil field, Wytch Farm, giving a total — before the Cable & Wireless sale — of more than £910m.

Although Mr Moore described the latest Cable & Wireless share disposal as being part of the Government's programme of privatization, the move is certain to be seen in the



Moore: part of the Government's programme.

City as little more than a fund-raising exercise to help the Government meet its public spending targets.

Mr Eric Sharp, the chairman of Cable & Wireless, has been one of the most vociferous proponents of the benefits of companies being transferred from the public to the private sector.

The shares have performed

strongly since the issue, more than doubling in value, although they have been much weaker in recent weeks.

After the Commons announcement Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and Economic Affairs described it as yet another sorry episode in the unfolding saga of public asset stripping that went by the name privatization.

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (SDP MP for Stockton South) suggested that the Government was really "selling the silver to pay the household bills."

● Concern for consumer protection and the rights of consumers "drives me to promote privatization", Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, declared last night (Edward Townsend writes).

Mr Tebbit, addressing the Price Waterhouse partner's dinner in London, said that in the past public sector inefficiencies had been paid for many times over.

City Editor's Comment

Glamour goes out of the market

Share prices are now drifting in a sort of ghostly limbo. After rising more than two-thirds in less than a couple of years, prices broke sharply earlier this month and certainly show no inclination to test the all-time peaks scaled in August.

There is a general feeling that the great bull market is over, but neither stockbrokers nor analysts can bring themselves to predict the bear market that would normally follow.

The splash of takeovers, high-priced new issues and succession of glamour sectors that characterize the end of a market advance have all turned a bit sour. But the classic bear ingredient of sharply rising interest rates. Which were forecast earlier this year because of public spending problems, is now noticeably missing. So there is no push into money.

This confusion may be no bad thing. Old-timers who go back before the 1967-69 bull market and inflation can remember times when investment was not governed by trying to time the huge swings in interest rates and share prices that have characterized markets since, but by choosing the right individual investments on their fundamental worth.

There is, to take one example, still a remarkably large number of banks and sound consumer and industrial companies whose shares offer sufficient dividend yields.

Reverting to the macro-approach, investors still face a new situation. If stockbrokers Hoare Govett is to be believed, profits and the recovery may soon run out of steam. That might point to a straight switch back into gilt-edged stock if the Chancellor's hopes of lower inflation come off.

But the choice will still be dominated by short-term interest rate movements and that new third leg to stock movements: the exchange rate.

Interest rates are now on a tightrope. According to the latest monetary analysis from Messrs Greenwell, all is well. The stage should be set for cuts, certainly if the long-awaited dollar fall really materializes. That would favour gilt-edged but would sustain shares at least somewhere near their present level.

But sterling could push interest rates the other way. No wonder so many are sitting on their thumbs.

Cashing in on tax relief

Was the Chancellor a little starry-eyed when he announced the Business Expansion Scheme in the Budget last March? The main beneficiaries so far have been funds which have raked in large amounts of cash, charge hefty management fees to the investors and usually interest as well to the small firms which get the finance.

Raising the money is easy. Investing it wisely is a little more difficult. The difficulties are compounded because in order to qualify for the scheme's hefty tax relief it has to be invested by April 1.

The pressure of time means the quality of the portfolios may not be all that investors might have desired.

Surely the Chancellor's original idea was that small firms would benefit from cheap finance provided directly by small investors attracted by tax relief. The idea was not to provide easy money for financial institutions ready to set up a fund with a good line in sales patter to take advantage of it.

The funds argue that if companies went direct to investors they would have to produce prospectuses, which is an expensive exercise. They also claim that the management charge is not excessive. The mean charge is around 7 per cent.

Royal Insurance in £33m US takeover

By Andrew Cornelius

Royal Insurance yesterday announced a \$50m (£33m) agreed takeover of the Silvey Corporation, an American insurance group based in Missouri. It is the latest of a series of moves to expand its operations in North America.

Silvey's business comprises three general insurance and a life insurance company operating in the mid-west states. Total premium income for the business last year was \$48m. The acquisition brings Royal's share of the Missouri insurance market to 1.8 per cent. In Oklahoma it will be 1.6 per cent and in Kansas 1.5 per cent.

Royal's share of the total US general insurance market is 1.3 per cent.

During the summer, Royal completed a \$15.3m acquisition of American Overseas Holdings, a US reinsurance com-

pany, from Marsh & McLennan. Last year, Royal took over Milbank Mutual, an insurance group based in South Dakota, in a £10m deal.

Royal said yesterday that it will continue to make selective acquisitions in the US, particularly in the mid-west states.

Silvey employs 200 people and has 400 agents. It will continue to be run by the existing management team.

About 40 per cent of Royal's non-life insurance business is in the United States, which is still the main problem area for the group. Underwriting losses in the United States grew from \$94m to \$99.3m at the halfway stage this year, but Royal is hoping that its action to increase premiums and turn away bad business will lead to a better result by the end of the year.

Brazil tries again to satisfy IMF

By Peter Wilson-Smith,
Banking Correspondent

The Brazilian Government had introduced a new, watered-down law in an attempt to satisfy both the International Monetary Fund and opposition parties.

Doubts remain whether the new law will be enough to satisfy the IMF, which has demanded that Brazil move towards de-indexing the economy and sharply cut inflation in order to qualify for further support.

Commercial banks, which are trying to raise \$6.5 billion for Brazil, have also insisted any new money will be released only if the country adheres to IMF conditions.

The latest wage law replaces a presidential decree enacted last Thursday, after the Brazilian Congress voted down a Bill which restricted pay rises to 80 per cent of the rise in the cost of living.

According to reports from Brazil, the new law restricts the increase in salary budgets to 87 per cent of the rise in the cost of living index — a significant concession.

Twice-yearly pay rises would be determined according to a sliding scale ranging from 50 to 100 per cent of the inflation rate.

Although the opposition has a nine-member majority in Congress, Senator Nelson Marchezan, head of the Government party, said that the new law should easily pass Congress because it had the backing of the 13 Brazilian Labour Party congressmen.

The deadline for a new wage law is becoming increasingly tight.

WALL STREET

Dow slips in early trading

New York (Reuters) — Share prices continued to be moderately lower in early trading yesterday with precious metal stocks sliding.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down by about 2.5 points to about 1238. Declining issues outnumbered rising ones by about seven to four. Volume was about 21 million shares.

Hoechst Mining was down ¼ to 16½, Newmont Mining fell 1¼ to 47½ and Ana was off 1¼ to 52.

Analysts said the declining trend was likely to continue.

For the past several weeks, there has been a two-tiered market, with receiving most of the attention and others falling.

Mr Ricky Harrington of Interstate Securities, said he would not be surprised to see the Dow average drop to the 1,200 area.

Mr George Pirrone of Dreyfus Corp. also thought there would be a fall "because of nervousness about the world situation."

Austerity plan at Crown Agents

By Our Financial Correspondent

The Crown Agents are planning to sell their grandiose headquarters in London and impose tough new working conditions on a greatly reduced staff in an effort to combat their financial crisis.

Civil service unions claimed yesterday that the draconian measures being considered include longer hours for no extra pay, a cut in redundancy benefits and compulsory transfer of staff to an office outside London.

This is in addition to the loss of at least 330 jobs which the Agents' 1,200 staff have already been told must go as part of a plan to make the organisation more streamlined and commercial.

A management document leaked by the unions representing the staff shows that the Agents have been considering a number of drastic options, including making the entire staff redundant and then reemploying them on a selective basis. This was rejected on legal advice.

Mr Alan Frood, the Agents' managing director, confirmed that the civil service working conditions of the staff — including their index-linked pensions — were being reviewed to see whether they could be afforded in the Agents' new and more commercial role.

He denied that employees would have to work longer for less pay, however.

Bank admits 'we have had talks'

By Wayne Lintott

Midland may take stake in broker

The Midland Bank has joined Exco International and Mercantile Credit in publicly confirming that it has been involved in talks to acquire an interest in a leading firm of stockbrokers.

The bank said: "There are no positive negotiations taking place at the moment. We have had talks and have left the initiative to the brokers."

The bank refused to name the firm of brokers but it is believed to rank among the top 10 Stock Exchange members.

These would include Phillips & Drew, James Capel, Serimour, Kemp-Gre, Hoare Govett, Vickers da Costa, Rowe & Pitman and W. Greenwell.

The Midland already has a 60 per cent holding in merchant bankers Samuel Montagu, which has a substantial presence in the bullion, foreign exchange and Eurocurrency markets.

Leading banking analysts believe it is unlikely that a stockbroking stake would be

bought through Montagu, because the clients of such a broker could respond badly to an allegiance to only one merchant bank.

Both brokers and merchant banks are also worried over the potential conflict of interest that might arise if their clients were involved in a bid battle or dispute against each other. Both

sides are afraid of losing business.

In seeking a stake in a stockbroking firm, the clearing banks would look, according to one banking executive, for a large firm with a good reputation, and a substantial client list or substantial funds under management. Phillips & Drew has more than £3 billion under

management, mainly for pension business.

National Westminster is said to have approached leading jobbers Weld Durlacher, but the bank refused to comment.

Leading British institutions which are said to have had talks with the top brokers include, apart from the Midland and National Westminster, four merchant banks and the leading life insurance companies, including Hambro Life, Mercantile, Exco International, London Investment Trust, Britannia Arrow and M&G are others that are also interested.

An executive from one interested institution said that the brokers were valuing themselves on an earnings multiple of 20. That would put a price tag on a leading broker of up to £100m.

The executive said: "I think they are worth only around £40m."

Capel to advertise on TV

The firm surveyed the AB socio-economic sector and discovered that the vast majority of people could not name a firm of brokers. The phasing out of fixed commissions will result in brokers offering a much fuller range of investment services, bypassing currently accepted advisers who "in many cases are just salesmen in disguise", Capel said.

The television campaign will be on Channel 4 and TV South, which covers a region where 40 per cent of the firm's clients live, and it will be a prelude to a deciding whether to promote a

Chrysler earnings up 966%

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Chrysler, the third largest United States car manufacturer, said yesterday that its profits in the third quarter of this year had soared more than ninefold as the result of a sharp increase in sales.

Chrysler, which was nearly forced into bankruptcy three years ago but has since recovered, said its third-quarter earnings shot up 966 per cent to \$100.2m (£66m) on higher overall sales of \$2.8 billion.

So far this year, Chrysler has earned \$582.6m, more than double the figure of a year ago, on sharply higher sales of \$9.46bn.

Chrysler is the second of the big three American car makers to report a considerable upturn in profits. On Monday, General Motors said it had a record third-quarter net of \$737m and

several US businesses are reporting a surprisingly strong third quarter in what is regarded as convincing evidence of a strong recovery.

Heading the list is US Steel Corporation, America's largest steel company, which has reported its first quarterly profit in more than a year.

It said the months of depressed prices and sharp losses ended during the third quarter, when it earned a profit of \$52m resulting from reduced losses in its steelmaking operations and rising profits from oil subsidiaries.

The company's earnings, which were equal to 27 cents a share, were helped by the sale of tax credits totalling \$77m and compared to losses in the same quarter a year earlier of \$82m.

Contributing greatly to the improved earnings picture were the operations of the Marathon Oil subsidiary acquired in 1982, officials said. Marathon's earnings rose almost 25 per cent to \$231m from \$185m a year earlier largely because of profits from new oil fields in the North Sea and higher margins on sales of refined products.

In addition, the company was able to cut significantly losses from steel operations, which were reduced to \$124m from \$274m a year earlier.

Also reporting surprisingly strong earnings for the third quarter were two of America's largest oil companies, Exxon Corporation, and Standard Oil Company of California.

Both were helped by sharply higher earnings from their overseas operations.

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of the Stock Exchange. Application has been made for the grant of permission to deal in the ordinary share capital of French Connection Group plc in the United Securities Market. It is emphasised that no application has been made for these securities to be admitted to listing.

FRENCH CONNECTION

French Connection Group plc

(Incorporated in England under the Companies Acts 1948 to 1976. Number 1410568)

French Connection Group and its subsidiaries are engaged in the design and marketing of ladies' and men's fashion clothing.

Offer for sale

by

Barclays Merchant Bank Limited

of 1,823,429 ordinary shares of 5p each at 123p per share, payable in full on application

SHARE CAPITAL

Authorised

\$1,000,000

Issued and fully paid

\$759,762

The application list for the ordinary shares now offered for sale will open at 10.00 am on 2nd November, 1983 and may be closed at any time thereafter.

Copies of the Prospectus with application forms containing information regarding French Connection Group plc are available from:

Barclays Merchant Bank Limited

1516 Gracechurch Street,

London EC3V 0BA

Gibson, Grant and Co.

18th House,

45-47 Gresham Street,

London EC2V 7BJ

Barclays Bank PLC

New Street Department,

PO Box 123,

Preston House,

25 Farringdon Street,

London EC4A 4EO

35 St. Andrew Square,

Edinburgh B2 2AD

PO Box 207,

40 Corn Street,

Bristol BS99 7AJ

PO Box 34,

63 Colmore Row,

Birmingham B3 2BY

PO Box 357,

77 York Street,

Manchester M40 2AU

and at the following branches of Barclays Bank PLC:

Stock Exchange Branch,

8 Angel Court,

Throgmorton Street,

London EC2R 7HT

PO Box 124,

Colingwood Street,

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE99 1BA

37 Park Row,

Leeds LS1 4AB

56 Great Port and

Street

L2 2EP W.A. 214

MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Lyle Shipping hits low

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Oct 17, Dealings end, Today, Clearance Day, Oct 31, Settlement Day, Nov 7.

Shares of troubled Lyle Shipping, the Glasgow-based shipping-to-insurance broking group, tumbled 10p to a new low of 123p yesterday as its biggest shareholder decided to call it a day and part company.

The privately-owned Hogarth Shipping, another Glasgow-based group, has sold its entire stake of 29.86 per cent. Brokers Kinnaird & Aitken placed nearly 3 million shares with various institutions for an undisclosed sum.

News of the deal was met with a firm "no comment" from Hogarth, which built the stake up gradually throughout the 1970s. But it is thought Hogarth decided to sell the stake to reduce its own debt.

Lyle Shipping remained unavailable for comment. Last year, Lyle replaced pretax profits of £5.8m with a loss of £4.4m and this latest sale inevitably scuppered any remaining hopes of a full-scale bid for the group.

Elsewhere, shares of the oil exploration group, Tricentral, dipped 12p to 194p on reports the group was about to make a sizable acquisition. It now looks as though the group is poised to

make a placing of shares next week to raise £14m. This will be used to buy the UK operations of Norsen, the Canadian exploration group.

Elsewhere in oils, Atlantic Resources was a firm market, jumping 35p to 635p. Word in the markets suggest a production platform is about to be manoeuvred into position in the Irish Sea following the group's recent strike.

Early estimates suggested a flow rate from the two fields of over 9,000 barrels a day.

Broker Northcote has decided not to proceed with a placing of shares on the Unlisted Securities Market of Queens Park Rangers, the West London Football Club, following the poor performance of shares of neighbours, Tottenham Hotspur.

Apparently, Northcote feels that following the reception given to Spurs, the would-be acquisition would not be sympathetic to another football club.

The recent dull conditions would also make such a placing highly risky. However, Northcote, which is hoping to raise

about £5m from the issue, is still hoping to proceed with the placing later in the season.

Meanwhile, Tottenham have drawn arch rival Arsenal in the next round of the Milk Cup which should ensure a bumper gate. It is also due to meet in Arsenal in the League on Boxing Day. But the news failed to revive the share price which slipped another 2p to 93p.

Shares of industrial components group Morgan Crucible put up a brave effort closing 3p higher at 124p - just 5p short of the year's high. This was in spite of a line of 1.2 million shares going through the market at 117p.

The shares were offered for sale last month by broker Sheppards & Chase at 100p a share. The offer was more than four times oversubscribed, but has failed to live up to expectations.

Elsewhere the equity market

spen a better day with the FT Index closing 4.0 higher at 694.0. Most of the rise was mainly due to a rise of 20p to 306p in Hawker Siddeley.

This follows an upgrading by brokers E. B. Savory Mills is now looking for unchanged pretax profits of £123m for the year.

Eagle Star Holdings is mustering the support of the City in its attempt to ward-off the record 2652m takeover attempt by Allianz Versicherungs, West Germany's leading insurer.

Talk of a "defence committee" being set up to fight the bid was dismissed by Eagle Star yesterday. However, the company did confirm that it has enlisted the support of its three broking firms - Greenwell, Savory Mills and Cazenove, in preparing its defence.

The defence document is expected next week. Meanwhile, Eagle Star is concentrating its energies on trying to get the bid referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Yesterday Eagle Star shares were up 13p at 553p against the Allianz offer of 500p per share.

RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price	Yield
A & M Wire 10p Ord (a)	100	10.0
Acorn Computer 1p Ord (1250)	1250	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
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BRITISH FUNDS

Company	Price	Yield
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Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0

Company	Price	Yield
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Company	Price	Yield
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Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

Company	Price	Yield
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
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Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Company	Price	Yield
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
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Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

Company	Price	Yield
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0

BREWERS AND DISTILLERS

Company	Price	Yield
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
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Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

Company	Price	Yield
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
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Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0

A - B

Company	Price	Yield
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0
Admiral 10p Ord (200)	200	10.0

APPOINTMENTS

Three will join Savory Milln

E. R. Savory Milln: Mr Simon Casement, R. Ewen Cameron Watt and Mr Gerald Davies will be joining the partnership of this stock broking firm from November 14.

Institute of Personnel Management: Mr Len Peach, director of personnel and corporate affairs, IBM UK, has become president. He succeeds Mr Bob Ramsey, former industrial relations director of Ford Motor.

United Cable Programme: Mr R. R. G. McIntosh has become financial controller. Mr Michael Sutton has been appointed company secretary and chief accountant. He has also been made a director of Johnson Group Management Services.

TSB Insurance Brokers: Mr Richard Swallow has become insurance broking manager of the company, a subsidiary of TSB Trust Company. He has also been appointed to the board.

The Lep Group: Mr Joachim Rudiger has joined the board. Kinat & Aitken: Mr Roy Owens, Mr George Walker and Mr John Marshall are being taken into partnership from next Monday.

Howard, Tilley & Co: Mr Kenneth Sharp for the past eight years head of the Government Accountancy Service, is to join the company as a partner next Tuesday.

Plym: Mr Brian Lewis has been appointed a non-executive director. He is also a director of Robert Fleming, merchant bankers to Plym.

Dry Lining and Partition Association: Mr Peter Higgins, managing director of Movable Drywall Construction, has been elected president. The honorary treasurer is Mr Arthur Dickson, managing director of Deewall Contracts.

Hayes Allan: Mr W. Norman Hunter Smart becomes senior partner next Tuesday. Mr John Laurence, present senior partner, retires from the partnership but continues as a consultant.

International Thomson Organisation: Mr Joe Darby, managing director of Thomson North Sea, has joined the board.

National Freight Consortium: Mr J. W. Robb is now a non-executive director. The Secretary of the consortium is Mr K. F. Dibbon, who has been appointed a non-executive director.

Derek Harris examines the Office of Fair Trading after its first ten years

Why Chancery Lane lawyer studies used cars and mergers

Next Tuesday, the Office of Fair Trading will have been in existence for ten years, seven of them with Sir Gordon Borrie as Director-General.

At the OFT's modest headquarters just off London's Chancery Lane, stamping ground of lawyers, Sir Gordon himself a lawyer, reviews the past and considers the future. He looks at matters like competition and merger policy, the slow move of the sessions towards reform, protection of the consumer and the OFT's surveillance duties.

Lately much of its time has been taken up with the big multiple grocers' power in securing hefty discounts to the disadvantage of the smaller shops, which provides an insight into the ways a complex system now works - or tries to work.

An irony of the anniversary, is that this year saw Sir Gordon's three years of pursuing the Stock Exchange on restrictive practices end in the Government's unilateral deal with the exchange.

It followed a number of occasions, largely while Lord Cockfield was Secretary of State for Trade, of Sir Gordon's advice on mergers being ignored.

Sir Gordon says: "Alongside the disappointment of the Stock Exchange not being examined thoroughly, I can place as a big success in the restrictive practices area the discovery of numerous covert collusive tendering agreements in the construction industry."

He welcomes the more recent ministerial promises that his advice on mergers will be heard more clearly, accepting that assiduous interdepartmental lobbying within Whitehall can sometimes have its effect.

The recent RHM-Dalrymple decision can be seen in that light.

He remembers housing the sugar industry shake-up in 1976, the then Secretary of State, Mrs Shirley Williams, was overruled (as well as he) at Cabinet level.

"One tends to think this sort of thing is only recent, but that is not the case," he comments.

"The most satisfactory way forward is for Ministers and ourselves, where we are in agreement, or occasionally disagreement, to give clearer reasons wherever possible for the actions taken. People deserve to know why."

His suggestion is that after nine or 12 months of explanation - already pledged at the Department of Trade and Industry - the Secretary of State should make a summation. "He should distil out of

The Office of Fair Trading and Sir Gordon Borrie, its director general (right) are best known for their duty to vet mergers involving £15m or more assets and recommend to the Trade and Industry Secretary whether they should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. But the OFT has a much wider workload.

It focuses on six main pieces of legislation: Fair Trading Act, Consumer Credit Act, Competition Act, Estate Agents Act, Restrictive Trade Practices Act and Resale Prices Act.

On consumer protection and surveillance of traders it works with local trading officers and advice agencies, gives information on consumer rights and

obligations, can secure assurances from traders under the Fair Trading Act and under the Consumer Credit Act judges the fitness of any traders offering credit, while also resolving disputes over the accuracy of information on individuals given by credit reference agencies.

The competition legislation brings monopolies, mergers and other trade practices under the OFT's eye. It can look into any conduct apparently restricting, distorting or preventing competition in Britain with powers of reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Restrictive trade practices like price-fixing cartels must be submitted to the OFT and placed on a register for judgment by the Restrictive Practices Court.



it such policy as he can," says Sir Gordon.

"What I do not think is feasible is that Ministers, especially when fairly new in office, should somehow sit down and dream-up hypothetical merger situations and say what policy would be if this or that situation occurred. It all has to flow out of actual cases."

"I am an unrepentant supporter of the flexible, pragmatic approach. I do not think it would be desirable to have a mathematical formula of the kind used in the United States. Lack of certainty and clarity which is complained of, is a small price to pay for avoiding a too-rigid system."

But is Sir Gordon himself clear on what merger policy is currently about?

He says: "It is concerned to raise questions in relation to mergers which may substantially restrict competition in a particular industry. But government, with the broad criteria of what may affect the public interest, is also inclined to raise questions marks when interests of some other kind are involved - such as when a company is bid for from overseas."

The question of effects on a bid-for company's efficiency tends to be the common thread.

This can be in question when the type of management of a bidder - and the personality involved - might be detrimental to the efficiency of the company about to be taken over.

Sir Gordon's surveillance of the grocery field since the Monopolies Commission reported on its investigation of discounts to retailers two years ago has developed into an excursion into a minefield.

The main issue was additional discounts, unrelated to costs, which food manufacturers and suppliers were giving to big multiple grocery chains. The Commission decided they were not against the public interest, particularly as the benefits were passed on to the customers.

Nobody, except the multiples, was enthusiastic about the report. It left questions unanswered. What of those, usually the least able to pay higher prices, who could not easily get to outlets like supermarkets on the edge of town? What about the squeezed margins of food manufacturers?

The Commission gave Sir Gordon no guidance for investigating what was going on, while leaving him with the burden of watching to see if the position changed for the worse.

There have since been rows about bread which can be bought more cheaply in the big supermarkets than it being offered to small grocers at the big bakeries' gates.

Dr Ann Everton, lecturer in law at Leicester University, has urged the control of such discounting by setting up a tribunal to which Sir Gordon should refer instances of possible abuse of market power.

Others are looking to action being taken under the EEC Treaty to make discriminatory discounting illegal.

Many believe legislation on this issue to be unlikely. Sir Gordon concurs.

Sir Gordon, meanwhile, has made it clear that any substantial mergers in grocery retailing will usually be vetted by the Commission. This is why he feels it was right to refer Linford-Fitch Lovell, even though the Commission subsequently decided it could enhance competition.

So far he has taken no formal action under the competition laws, but, at the informal level, there has been much activity and Sir Gordon discerns changes already because of that.

"In one or two instances where we have been active there has been a change of practice,"

he says. "I would claim that our informal inquiries have had a moderating influence, particularly in the bread sector."

He would not have been against bringing an investigation of predatory pricing - selling at below cost to harm a competitor - if there was any prima facie evidence of this.

Evidence on whether food manufacturers are doing particularly badly because of discounting demands is ambiguous, Sir Gordon feels. The case on the effects on their rate of return on capital and net margins he regards for the moment as "not proven."

There could, nevertheless, be a development soon which could place the issue back with the Commission. One case with special features now under investigation in the grocery field could get as far as a formal investigation by the OFT.

The Competition Act, brought in on the demise of the Price Commission to give powers to look into anti-competitive behaviour, has been disappointing in the number of formal investigations it has thrown up.

Sir Gordon admitted there have been far fewer inquiries than was envisaged but, he added: "There have been a considerable number of informal inquiries by us and there have been some changes of practice as a result. A lot goes on below the surface."

Sir Gordon's remit, which ranges over six main pieces of legislation, has grown over the years. He said: "It is somewhat untidy. At some stage, but not in the immediate future, I suppose there should be a look at consumer and competition policy with the aim of tidying it up."

At one time, Sir Gordon favoured changes which would have reversed the burden of proof on mergers so that positive benefit would have to be demonstrated.

He said: "I do not now think that is necessary."

In the consumer sector, Sir Gordon has encouraged a wide range of codes of conduct which now operate in areas from double-glazing to used-car sales. But he sees room for broad legislation to enforce codes of practice in a sector because trade associations have limitations.

On consumer protection, Sir Gordon has shown a common touch. The OFT shopper's guide, *Not Just*, not only sells well, 95p, but early this year got into the paperback best-seller list at number 14. Not bad for a lawyer.

Value for money in 'fusspot state'

While Britain ponders the detail of monopoly and merger control, the whole principle and practice of anti-trust law is coming under more than more salient fire in the United States, the country that invented the idea almost a century ago.

The iconoclasts are the rampant free-market liberal economists, just the sort, you might think, who would champion the notion of a state that sets the rules to maximise free competition.

Not at all. Increasingly, across the Atlantic, they are mounting a determined two-pronged attack. One prong is the philosophical objection, popularized by Professor Hayek, against any government intervention, even to promote competition, as an unnecessary interference in market forces. The other prong is more subtle, arguing case by case that anti-trust is time-wasting, pointless at best, and sometimes actually militates against competition and efficiency in the name of fair practices or "by shielding competitors from the sanctions of competition."

That particular charge comes from last week's Winston memorial lecture, delivered by Arthur Shenfield, an Englishman who spends most of his time in America.

His main case is the old one that just because something is wrong does not mean that "the fusspot state" should do something about it, because the cure may be worse than the disease.

After all, economists have long argued for free trade, even though there are theoretical examples where protection is economically justified, because accommodation of the exceptions leads to general protection.

In any case, competition will out in the end. Even that classic example, Rockefeller's Standard Oil monopoly, would have fallen apart in time. Price-fixing and market sharing agreements would probably break up only if as Hayek suggested they could not be enforced in law. Indexes of market power bear no relation to actual competition, conglomerate mergers certainly don't. And too many companies (here as in the US) seek protection against their own inefficiency

and failure in anti-merger laws.

There is much sense in this under the highly legalistic American system, where lawyers and economists have built a lucrative anti-trust industry. In the Common Market too, laws seem to be developing on the rigid American model rather than flexible if discretionary British line.

Certainly governments kill more competition - for instance by state monopoly, public purchasing and voluntary restraint cartels imposed on foreign importers - than they ever promote.

But the argument is misconceived when applied to the realities of Britain today. Here, state dirigisme is not an alternative to standing on the sidelines. It is the practicable alternative to the state running business itself and the preferable alternative to large chunks of public spending.

The draft licence for British Telecom, published earlier this week, is a classic example of intensive regulation to take telecommunications out of the public sector and allow competition for a natural monopoly utility.

Merger policy provides more striking examples. In practice, companies often take each other over as a cheaper and less risky alternative to fresh investments in new businesses.

A complete ban on mergers, though undesirable, might well stimulate more extra investment than all the grants and tax subsidies pushed out by government.

Even the oft-decried "public interest" test for mergers could, as in the Royal Bank of Scotland case, potentially save billions in regional aid by the more effective means of keeping as many successful independent firms with their headquarters and boards of directors in the regions as possible.

On that basis, our anti-trust laws and our fusspot state, can be both excellent value for money and a positive aid to a more liberal economic order.

Graham Searjeant

*Myth and Reality in Anti-trust, by Arthur Shenfield, IEA occasional paper 66 at £1.

Authorized Units & Insurance Funds			
Unit Name	Code	Value	Value
1. 1000 1000 1000 1000	1000	1000	1000
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COMPANY NEWS
IN BRIEF

Allied Leathers Industries
Half-year to 30.9.83
Pretax profit £27,300,000 (loss £88,000)
Turnover £13.3m (£12m)
Net interim dividend 1.75p (same)

S. Simpson
Year to 31.3.83
Pretax profit £24,000 (£402,000)
Pretax earnings 10.13p (4.14p)
Turnover £27m (£23m)
Net dividend 2p (3.5p)

Philip Hill Investment Trust
Year to 30.9.83
Attributable profit £3.7m (3.4m)
Pretax earnings 3.86p (3.56p)
Turnover £5.5m (£5.4m)
Net interim dividend 2p (same)

Coates Brothers
Half-year to 30.9.83
Pretax profit £3.3m (£4.5m)
Pretax earnings 4.07p (5.48p)
Turnover £28.4m (£29.4m)
Net interim dividend 1p (same)

Manganese Bronze Holdings
Year to 31.3.83
Pretax profit £248,000 (£349,000)
Pretax earnings 3.18p (1.48p)
Turnover £27.3m (£24.9m)
Net dividend 2.17p

Stewart and Wright
Year to 28.3.83
Pretax profit £35,000 (£8,000)
Pretax earnings 32.26p (3.37p)
Turnover £238,000 (£238,000)
Net dividend 14p (4p)

Stockdale Holdings
Half-year to 30.9.83
Pretax profit £4.3m (£4.9m)
Pretax earnings 46.37p (50.86p)
Turnover £28.7m (£27.3m)
Net interim dividend 1.4p (same)

De Vero Hotels and Restaurants
Nine months to 30.9.83
Pretax profit £1,011,000 (£214,000)
Turnover £15.38m (£14.1m)
Net interim dividend 3p (3p)

Border Breweries (Wrexham)
Half-year to 31.3.83
Pretax profit £248,000 (£248,000)
Pretax earnings 5.53p (5.32p)
Turnover £8.82m (£8.4m)
Net interim dividend 1.4p (same)

British Assets Trust
Year to 30.9.83
Pretax profit £3m (£7.2m)
Pretax earnings 4.94p (4.61p)
Turnover £2.7m (£7.5m)
Net dividend 4.5p (4.5p)

Weeks Associates
Half-year to 14.8.83
Pretax profit £100,000 (£38,000)
Pretax earnings 1p (0.4p)
Turnover £5.5m (£5m)
Net interim dividend none (same)

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Chubb's Savings	110%
Consolidated Cds	9 1/2%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Net Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

↑ Mortgage Rate Rate
* 7 day deposit rate of under £10,000, 9% to £10,000 up to £50,000, 9 1/2% to £50,000 and over, 10%.

ICI tunes up for top performance

ICI's nine-month results are just the overtone in two ways: as a pointer to the full year and as a prelude to its big battle listing on the New York stock exchange next Tuesday.

They are encouraging on both counts with pharmaceuticals powering third quarter profits to £147m pretax, seasonally down on the bumper £170m second quarter, but out of sight of last year's comparable £58m. The widely forecast £600m for the full year now looks strictly a base estimate. But on that basis ICI shares will be selling at usefully less than 10 times earnings, which would make sense for ICI near the top of a cycle, but not for a multinational moving to a new phase where growth businesses outweigh heavy cyclical ones.

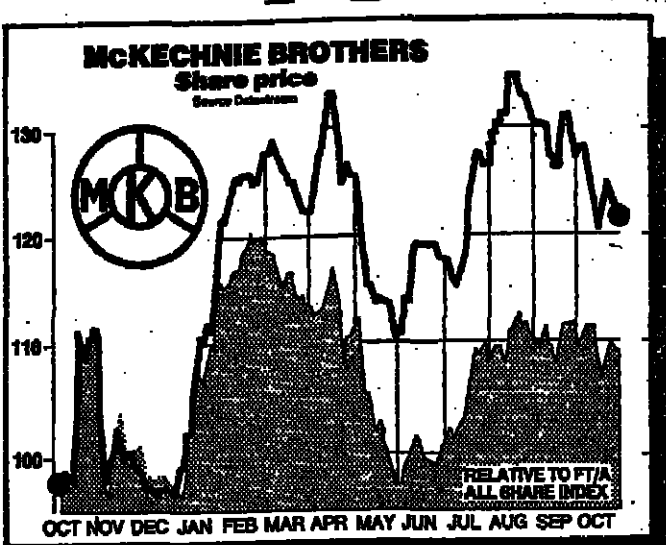
This distinction will no doubt be at the heart of the promotional tour that Sir John Harvey-Jones, chairman and top ICI executives will be launching among American investors and analysts next week to coincide with the new quote. Americans already own a tenth of the shares.

Pharmaceuticals, about a third of profits all told, are the big selling point, given the glamour rating for comparable Glaxo. Agriculture and particularly the plant protection

McKechnie Bros

McKechnie Bros
Year to 31.3.83
Pretax profit £11.1m (£10.1m)
Pretax earnings 13.5p (13.1p)
Turnover £158.1m (£154.6m)
Net dividend 7.28p (same)
Share price 122p down 2p. Yield 8.5%

The bankers must be feeling rather pleased with McKechnie Brothers, which, unlike most West Midlands metalworkers, have never come anywhere near their intensive care units de-



spite a substantial fall in its profitability since 1980. Debt has never reached danger levels and now profits are moving off the bottom once more. In the year to the end of July, they rose by nearly 10 per cent to £11.1m.

An exceptional performance from plastics and consumer products countered stagnation in the traditional metal and chemical businesses while, by geographical area, the downturn caused by rationalization and

recession in South Africa and New Zealand was more than made up for by a big rise in UK profits.

A move soon to buy an industrial plastics company in the United States is expected and this could cause some short-term weakness in the share price.

Slough merger
The outcome of the mooted three-way marriage between

Slough Estates, Allnatt London Properties and Guildhall Property depends on a careful balancing act. Union on equal terms would benefit Slough shareholders more than those of the other two.

According to Scrimgeour Kemp-Gee, the stockbroker, Slough's discount to net assets is 41 per cent against 24 per cent for Allnatt and 21 per cent for Guildhall. Toting up the figures for the merged company gives an aggregate discount of 39 per cent, a gain for Slough but a loss for the other two.

A straight takeover for shares would benefit Allnatt and Guildhall by taking them out at a price which otherwise could not be achieved. But this would involve the issue of perhaps 96 million new Slough shares which would create something of a glut and reduce the net asset value from 190p to 165p.

Fair shares for all sides would mean some juggling with the assets. A straight-forward merger would give Slough 73.3 per cent Allnatt 24.3 per cent and Guildhall 2.4 per cent of the new company. Some formula could be worked out to give Allnatt and Guildhall shareholders a larger slice of the assets as compensation for a bigger discount on the shares.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES		STANDARD CATHODES		JANUARY	
Commodity	Unit	Commodity	Unit	Commodity	Unit
Coffee, Arabica	100 lbs	Copper	100 lbs	Wheat	100 lbs
Coffee, Robusta	100 lbs	Gold	100 gms	Barley	100 lbs
...

Law Report October 28 1983 Divisional Court

No duty on governor to produce prisoner to court

Regina v Governor of Brixton Prison and Another, Ex parte Walsh, P.J.
Before Lord Justice Kerr and Mr Justice Webster
[Judgment delivered October 27]

Where a prisoner was remanded on a fresh charge, either on bail or in custody, the governor of the prison was not under a duty to produce that prisoner in his custody to the magistrate court to which he had been remanded, nor was the Secretary of State for the Home Office under a duty to produce him or to procure his production to the court to which, in respect of the fresh proceedings, he had been remanded on bail at a time when he was in custody as a result of some other order.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing an application (1) for *habeas corpus ad respondendum* to bring up the prisoner for trial before the South Western Justices and Highways Corner Justices on two dates upon which he had been remanded to appear at those courts, (2) an application for judicial review directing the governor and the Home Secretary to bring the applicant before those courts on those dates, (3) a declaration that the governor was under a duty to do so.

Mr Simon D. Brown for the Home Secretary and the Governor of Brixton Prison; Mr Ian Macdonald for the applicant.

MR JUSTICE WEBSTER, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said that there have been five occasions when the applicant has not been produced to one court or

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 27TH OCTOBER, 1983

RESULTS 1982/83

	1983	1982
* TURNOVER	UP £21,317,000	£20,797,000
* PRE-TAX PROFIT	UP £ 812,000	£ 58,000
* EARNINGS PER SHARE	UP 11.18p	0.71p
* DIVIDEND PER SHARE	UP 1.50p	0.10p
* REVENUE RESERVE	NOW £ 3,103,000	£ 2,444,000
* BORROWINGS	DOWN £ 816,000	£ (79,000)

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Highlights of the year to 30th June	1983	1982	% change
Total Assets	£150.6m	£98.9m	+52.3
Net Asset Value per Ordinary Share	338.0p	221.2p	+52.8
Ordinary Share Price	242.0p	155.0p	+56.1

The proportion of the portfolio invested overseas has risen from 62% to 78%.
The Board is confident that the portfolio is well placed to benefit from any improvement in world markets.

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OXFAM

Man's distress appears to be unending in the procession of misery in wars, famines, and natural disasters. Philippa Toomey looks at Oxfam which has brought relief, comfort and hope for 40 years



Forty years ago, half a dozen people met in the Old Library of the University Church in Oxford, to form an organization to relieve famine and sickness arising from the war. The Oxford Committee for Famine Relief became Oxfam, its telegraphic address, on the suggestion of the Post Office, who pointed out that the whole title would cost them a fortune in cables. The founders included Professor Gilbert Murray, the Reverend T. R. Milford, vicar of University Church, who became chairman, Cecil Jackson-Cole, the first honorary secretary, Dr Henry Gillett, the mayor of Oxford, and Sir Alan Pitt, the honorary treasurer.

Their aims at that time were wholly charitable, directed towards the feeding of starving children in occupied Greece and Belgium. But from that very first moment the committee ran into political considerations which have complicated the relief of distress to this day. Would food sent to Belgium to feed children indirectly help the German war effort? Dingle Foot, Minister of Economic Warfare, decided that it would. Food was not sent to Belgium.

In 1943 the first donation, £3,200, was channelled through the Greek Red Cross to feed Greek children, and that same year the committee was registered as a charity. All the seeds of future expansion into the organisation we know today were planted that year. A Famine Relief Week with Greek dancing, films and concerts raised £10,700, an enormous sum for wartime.

A campaign was organised for postcards to be written in support of relief for women and children in Greece and Belgium and £20 was authorised to be spent in advertising. More than 7,000 postcards were received.

After the war, there was another question which caused anxious debate. Should Ger-



Not all Oxfam's work is with disasters: here children are taught crafts in a centre at Bangalore. Right, Vicky's stark message in 1961

any be included in the relief programme, or would this encourage British supporters? If voluntary groups contributed to welfare, would governments withdraw support? As Ben Whitaker says in his book on the history of Oxfam, *A Bridge of People*, "it was decided to take both risks" and money was sent to the Quakers, who were working in Germany.

From the first there has been a strong Quaker element. Dr Henry Gillett, one of the founders, was a Quaker, and Brian Walker, the director general for the past ten years,

is also a Quaker. The style of fund raising, and sending money to people on the spot has continued.

Not everything has gone smoothly and without dissent. Cecil Jackson-Cole was a self-made man, an energetic shop owner from London's East End (described by a close associate as "restlessly anxious to help the world's needy") who realized that charities would have to be run on business like lines. He insisted that the first administrative secretary, Leslie Kirkley (now Sir Leslie) be appointed.

When angry, Jackson-Cole was known to throw typewriters about in the office. A difficult and intolerant man, he went on to found Help the Aged, and Action in Distress (now Action Aid).

In 1949 the Charity Commissioners approved the widening of Oxfam's registered objectives to "the relief of suffering arising as a result of war, or any other cause in any part of the world". The first appeal that year was for Palestinian refugees, followed by appeals for Korea (1950), the famine in Bihar, the East Coast floods in Britain, the Ionian Islands earthquake (1953), the Hungarian uprising (1956), Algeria (1957), World Refugee Year (1959), the Congo (1960), Nigeria/Biafra (1967-70), earthquake in Peru, cyclone in East Pakistan (1970-71), Bangladesh/India (1971), Guatemala's earthquake (1976), cyclone in India (1977). So it continues, up to Oxfam's brave venture into Kampuchea, and its present work in Central America.

In the 1960s Oxfam decided to evolve into a development agency, to try to prevent famine and poverty, starting in its advertisements: "With your help, Oxfam can banish hunger." In 1961 its first field director went to Africa. Also in the 1960s, Oxfam Activities the Trading Company began to sell Christmas cards and tea towels

HOW OXFAM USED EVERY £1 IN 82/83	
SHOP DEVELOPMENT & WORKING CAPITAL 3 1/2p	OVERSEAS AID PROGRAMME & EDUCATIONAL WORK 78 1/2p
ADMINISTRATION 3p	
FUNDRAISING COSTS 15p	

INCOME	
General cash donations	7,600
Net income from shops	6,755
Oxfam Activities Ltd	962
Other	4,382
TOTAL	19,702

EXPENSES	
Fundraising	2,897
Administration	660
TOTAL	3,557

ALLOCATIONS	
Overseas programme	12,801
Worldwide grants to projects	157
Blankets and clothing	1,929
Supervision & direction	1,299
TOTAL	14,977

EXPENSES	
Education programme	742
Capital fund	691
Surplus of income over allocations & expenses	(205)
TOTAL	19,702

and to import handicrafts from abroad. By the end of the decade the income from this source had risen to more than £3m a year.

In the late 1960s Oxfam experienced an internal crisis which was seriously disruptive, and caused many to question the purpose of their work. In 1968 Nicholas Stacey was appointed deputy director. He was energetic and intelligent, but, as Ben Whitaker tactfully puts it, "not a natural number two". He saw Oxfam as having a middle-aged, middle-class image, and failing to catch the attention of younger people, with the long-term possibility of a decline in funds and influence. Stacey argued that Oxfam should devote itself to persuading government to increase the amount for relief and development, saying that "when the British Government cut its overseas aid programme by £20m in 1966 it involved a sum greater than the total of all Oxfam's spending since its birth in 1942".

charitable status, with all that implied; and there was serious concern that Oxfam's traditional supporters and volunteers would not welcome such a change.

After much discussion and considerable friction within the organization, and a number of resignations, it was decided not to make such a radical change in outlook and attitude, and in May 1970 Stacey resigned, leaving behind areas of conflict and dissension which took time to resolve.

It is a tribute to the strength of the organization and the people who ran it that Oxfam survived, and redefined its purpose. Brian Walker, appointed director in 1974 in succession to Leslie Kirkley, told the staff: "Change is never easy. But each one of us, when faced by the need to consider changes of attitude or method of working (let alone changes in

life style which the whole of industrialized society is having to contemplate) would do well to ponder: what right have we to urge the poor to change, or the rich to alter their style, if we ourselves are disinclined to experiment and adapt?"

A new professionalism has set Oxfam on an efficient road to their goals. There are now 27 field directors, 650 shops, a full-time staff of 563, and 55,000 long-term donors (in 1983, there were 8,000). Oxfam staff are conscious of the need to match the increasing size of the operation to the aspirations and wishes of both the poor of the world, whom they serve, and the expectations of the supporters and believers in their work in this country. It is an impossible equation, but the best answer lies in the words of Edmund Burke: "Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little."



"You see, they're trying to find some undeveloped areas..."

Don't forget the water pack

"The grasp of the poor on life is so tenuous, it needs only the least puff to blow them away—a collapse in the environment, a change in the weather, the wickedness of man, illness..."

so says Guy Stringer, Oxfam's deputy director. In a disaster, the first thing an Oxfam field director does is to ring Oxford to say where he is. This obvious procedure, says Marcus Thompson, 12 years with Oxfam, four of them in India, is essential. "We must not partake of the chaos which is part of the emergency", he says. Oxfam staffers must be methodical. For instance, a water engineer going off to a crisis needs a contract, travel, cheques, identity card, background information, letters of introduction, kit allowance, medical shots.

Ringling Oxfam from the field, you tell the position as you know it. Oxfam headquarters probably also have information which may alter your decisions. You say where you are going, where you may be contacted, and where money should be sent. Accounts are kept, so matter how dire the emergency, it's part of the disciplined approach to chaotic situations.

Oxfam last year allocated £11.9m to some 1,550 projects in 72 countries, and not all of it was for disasters. One of the larger grants to Kampuchea went for bicycles for health visitors in two provinces, and the smallest was for service and parts manuals for street cleaning vehicles.

Dick Copeland, director of the Disaster Unit, and Jim Howard, the Oxfam Technical officer, point out that usually they send money, not supplies. It can cost as much to airfreight blankets as the blankets themselves, and blankets can always be obtained within the country.

Marcus Thompson of the Disaster Unit airlifted 5000 sets of children's clothes from India to Uganda. "If you have people

with scabies, who have to change and wash clothes, and they have only what they stand up in, to get T-shirts from India was cheapest, and quickest."

Disasters can be oddly local. Jim Howard remembers an earthquake in Turkey which had demolished a small town, but down the road were a family of nomads who hadn't noticed that anything had happened. On one side of a river bank there is a flood, and on the other side of the river there may be a hard road with a bus service running. Oxfam will buy you a ticket to join your surviving relatives, if that is the only thing left to do.

Much disease could be prevented. Smallpox has been destroyed and leprosy and malaria could be eliminated. Dick Copeland says that if all human excreta were buried with a little trowel at the time, Oxfam's work might well be halved. Polluted water causes a large variety of diseases and deaths. Jim Howard is an enthusiast for the water pack, developed by Oxfam and Imperial College, in standard kit form, with spares, tools and instructions, providing 5,000 people with 23 litres a head for 12 hours a day.

The Oxfam sanitation pack offers everything a site might need for dealing with human waste, and there are two kinds of feeding kits, one for 500 vulnerable people, such as children under five and pregnant women, the second for 100 severely malnourished children or adults. Caps, bowls, ladles, buckets, scrubbing brushes, identity tags, 100-litre cooking pots, wire wool, detergent, two kinds of scales and a register are among the contents.

It is possible that 90 per cent of child deaths could be avoided if there were safe drinking water. The average cost to protect a spring in Ethiopia is £89. It might seem like a drop in the bucket, but at least the water is clean.

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Areas of conflict and dissension took time to resolve

In the political climate of the time this point of view had supporters both within Oxfam and outside. It was opposed on two principal grounds: that if Oxfam were to adopt overtly political objectives, the Charity Commissioners would be empowered to remove its

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Today, in charitable terms, Oxfam is large, though not, of course, in relation to human misery, and it is very important to keep within Oxfam a sense of "humility". So says Guy Stringer, deputy director of Oxfam and like many other working for the organization, someone who has come from another successful career.

In his case, it is from two other careers. In the Army, where he fought in the Far East during the war, and in Korea, where he took an engineering degree, and went on to a career in the pottery industry. "My family have been potters since 1840", he said, "and the day I joined the company I got some advice from the old chairman. 'First, you don't make rubbish. Next, if you make a mistake you put it right, and thirdly, you walk through the factories every day.'"

"The last piece of information" he says, "was the best piece of advice I ever had." Not only does he try to walk through Oxfam's labyrinthine offices building at the summit end of Banbury Road in Oxford every day, but he has visited Africa and India in the last year, on the same principle.

"When I joined Oxfam it was a relatively small affair. I have been lucky enough to be part of a number of men and women who, I think, have changed Oxfam significantly. There is a very important position for a charitable organization such as Oxfam today. We are not shackled by political issues, and we are able to move and organize with speed."

"The classic example is the fact that we were the first to break the logjam into Kampuchea. While the nation and the governments make up their minds we can actually be there in the early days when it is possible to be an effective life-saving organization. You have to be organized, to be efficient, and to have a back-up where you can put your hands on doctors, nurses and sanitation engineers."

The work of Oxfam does not always concern itself with disasters. "We are particularly interested in the landless, the slum urban poor, who don't advance. In some ways their condition has worsened", says Guy Stringer. Development thinking has changed. It used to be considered important to finance large schemes, on the grounds that input at the top would percolate down. "In fact this is not the case. If you take an enormous water scheme, the chances are that the richer, progressive farmers will benefit most, because they are brighter, more robust, and have more resources - and so the rich

get richer. We work through our people in the field. We support no programme without inspecting it ourselves - and so we are able to help poor communities because we work at grassroots level."

There are roughly 1,800 of these small-scale programmes, involving relatively modest sums, all monitored by Oxfam field directors and field officers for effectiveness and relevance.

"I have just been in Somalia, where we held a seminar for the heads of nomad families to discuss the problems of their environment, arranged by the field officers, who are universally men and women drawn from the community. We had another seminar with three people from each village, who got together on sand stabilization."

"In Gujarat there was a little gang of families whose only skill was in making huge baskets for road builders. Our field officer persuaded them to form a cooperative to buy cheap materials in bulk from the

The gang of families making baskets

government. The trouble was they didn't have any money to pay for a truckload, so we lent them the money - we're great chaps for lending money. They had £300, then £500 - and the result was that their baskets came down in price."

Guy Stringer attended their annual meeting - held at a crossroads, with lorries roaring by. They had made a profit of 4,000 rupees (about £200) and there was a heated discussion lasting about two hours about what to do with it. "I thought they'd all have a rave-up, but they put it into the reserves so that they wouldn't fall into the hands of the moneylenders again". The chairman had been to an Oxfam seminar on how to run a co-op, and told Guy Stringer that as a result of all its efforts they were eating better. It's not going to change the

world, but they also paid the loan back.

Quite a large proportion of work affects the position of women. The field director's hand book, a manual offering guidance and technical advice which is constantly updated, has a section on how the condition of women may be altered. As Guy Stringer points out: "If you improve the production of maize, introduce better fertilizers and water techniques, who actually takes the bits off the crop and grinds them up? The women. Women hold up half the world!"

Decisions "under the banyan tree" involving the village and the local field officer are considered of the utmost importance. "There are thousands of pumps throughout the world that are not working because the village took no part in saying it should be, and didn't understand how to keep it working." It can be a laborious and time-consuming way of discovering the aspirations and needs of the village people, but Oxfam feels that this is the way it must operate.

In many parts of the world conditions have got much worse. In Lebanon representatives in Beirut were doing, as Guy Stringer puts it, "all humanitarian work - like paying for a bit of food". In Central America, where prospects are grim, there is quite a large Oxfam team. "We have also made representations - not just on our own, but with other organizations, to senators and others in Washington to review current policies."

All this needs money, and in the past 10 years income has gone from £4m a year to £25m. "We have slugged away on the idea of the charity shop, and now have between 650 and 700. We are improving their standards, and the Oxfam shop has become an established and accepted part of the High Street."

The shops bring in just under £7m, and have led to the creation of a property department, surveyors, shopfitting and design, and training for

A look back at danger

In the ten years that Brian Walker has been director-general of Oxfam, he has seen revenue increase from £4m to nearly £20m. Yet he believes that Oxfam was wrong in the past to allocate only 5 or 6 per cent of the overseas budget to disaster and welfare work. In the first year, he believes it should be at least 20 to 25 per cent; with increasing violence in the Third World, it would not surprise him if 75 per cent of Oxfam's budget could be spent on the relief of suffering of refugees, disaster victims, the

aged and handicapped.

A man who describes one of his recreations as "Irish politics", he has had a career in industry, mainly in Northern Ireland, where he helped to found the New Ulster Movement which led to the Alliance Party. "I ended up on an assassination list" he says "and I was burned in effigy."

Now, at just over 50 he is leaving Oxfam to join an international refugee organization in Geneva headed by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan and Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan. "I had always planned to spend ten years at Oxfam" he says - if he had stayed he would have been with the organization for more than 20 years by the time he retired, which he did not think good.

Looking back, and forward, he regards Oxfam's integrity, its ability to fend off pressures from governments or government agencies, as a prime asset. "One of the corollaries of moving further into human rights and the politics of aid is that sooner or later countervailing intelligence agencies will try to destabilize us", he said on one occasion.



Guy Stringer and Brian Walker of Oxfam: more efficiency, bigger revenues.

shop managers and volunteers who keep the shops running. There are 2,000 volunteers each week and without them Oxfam would lose not only the income, but also the dedication and enthusiasm of the volunteers.

Mail-order sales raise almost as much money as the shops. "I never thought I'd become a mail-order man" says Guy Stringer. "I'm being paid to lecture in New York on mail order."

There is a register of nearly 300,000 people who are constant donors, and £3m a year is raised from covenants, which provide guaranteed funds Oxfam also gets money from the Government and from the EEC. "We take it with no

obligations on us at all: we are pretty careful about that."

Then there is the trading company, which Guy Stringer describes as "an extremely interesting employment programme. We think we employ about 10,000 people. We buy goods from poor men and women in the countries in which we work, and as they are mostly women, the money goes into the family pocket. We also do a similar programme here, where we buy from handicapped and disabled people."

The business has a turnover of £3m and the profit to Oxfam this year is £19,702.

Oxfam is also interested in waste and after a number of experiments now collects and recycles textiles and aluminium at its depot in Huddersfield. As Guy Stringer puts it: "We're now one of the world's biggest totters of textiles - something like 5,000 tons a year."

Guy Stringer remembers trying to explain the aims of Oxfam to a Russian in Kampuchea, where they were working with the Eastern Bloc Germans, Russians and Vietnamese. The concept of a charity was a difficult take in, but in the end a Russian said: "I think I understand - yours is a noble work."

Case history: Yemen

After the earthquake

Just before Christmas last year, Brian Walker was visiting Yemen, where an earthquake had killed 3,000 people and made 400,000 homeless in 40 minutes. He visited the village of Risiba, with Chris Dammers, the Oxfam field representative. Here is his eye-witness account.

Houses in that part of the world are built either of mud bricks or granite blocks about a foot square. Because granite is so solid and can be dressed into square sets, no mortar is used to hold the blocks together when the house is built. Thus, when the earth trembled, most mud brick houses absorbed the shock and remained standing while the more substantial granite houses collapsed.

People stored their grain in the lower rooms - often two years' supply, sometimes five to seven years'. All of this was lost. People had to sleep outside, in temperatures often below zero. This led to a spread of respiratory diseases and diarrhoea, always the killer sickness.

In Risiba all the houses were built of granite, and all were destroyed. The earthquake struck at about 11am when all the able-bodied men and boys were working in the fields. But women, very young children and the elderly were crushed to death inside their homes as the granite blocks collapsed into the downstairs rooms where they were working.

Oxfam distributed plastic tent material, corrugated iron sheeting, blankets, and water packs. Later hoes and seeds were provided by other agencies so that food production could be started as quickly as possible. Our grant to the survivors was very modest in cash terms, a mere £25,000.

When I arrived, I scrambled over the rubble some 40 or 50 yards into the centre of the village. One tree had survived and was clad now in its green leaves and with birds singing in its branches. The bird song was the only sound to break the silence of total devastation.

Not a house had escaped destruction, and despite the singing of the birds, there was an eerie silence - the silence of death and an exceptionally insensitive person who would not have felt the immense sorrow and pain emanating from what had happened inside each of those homes at 11 o'clock on that day just before Christmas.

"My wife and children are down there"

As I stood there troubled in spirit, a man we had seen working in the fields as we drove up to the village came scrambling over the rubble. He was a poorly dressed, unshaven peasant villager. He pointed to the top of an archway beneath my feet surrounded by collapsed rubble.

"That is my house", he said quietly. "My wife and two children are down there."

The man reflected for a moment and then quietly, and with immense dignity, gave me the last reply I expected to hear, and one which still astonishes me.

"No", he said, "I have everything I need". He told me his name - Muhammad Ali - we shook hands and he returned to the field. "I have everything I need". Would any of us have had the strength of character to say that?

What he had were four sheets of corrugated iron and a bit of plastic sheeting from which to make a tiny shelter, a couple of rough blankets, access to water, the village land, a hoe to dig with and seeds to plant. He had his physical strength, generations of survival knowledge built into his mind, but above all, he had come to terms with his personal tragedy and was confident that, in some way he could not explain, the death of his wife and children, the destruction of his home and the loss of all his material possessions were explicable within God's design for him and his place in the world. He had lost everything, yet he had everything he needed. He was a free man.

I shall never forget that man or his reply for as long as I live.

● Since that incident, Oxfam, in partnership with Concern of Dublin and the Norwegian Save the Children Fund, has built a demonstration house to illustrate earthquake resistant building techniques. There is also a video tape. Curiously, in an area with high levels of illiteracy and backwardness, there is a comparatively large number of television sets.

Case history: Kampuchea

A legacy of genocide

Oxfam's operation in Kampuchea is a classic example of how the organization works. After reports of acts of genocide by Pol Pot's retreating forces, Guy Stringer was sent to Thailand at 48 hours notice with £50,000 and instructions to secure a ship and as much food as possible and get it to Kampuchea.

The political situation was a minefield. Thailand, refused to allow anything to be moved to Kampuchea. Most UN members were continuing to recognize the Pol Pot regime. Stringer went on to Singapore where he chartered a tug and a barge and set out, uninsured, for the port of Kompong Sam, where conditions were unknown.

He arrived on October 13, 1979, bringing the first western relief to Kampuchea. Waiting on the dock were four government officials and Marcus Thompson and Dr Tim Lusty of Oxfam - plus every lorry in the country still working, about 80 of them. It took five days to unload the cargo, all dock equipment having been destroyed.

More than a quarter of the population of 8 million - including the educated, the intellectuals and natural leaders - had been exterminated. An immunization programme need-

ed vaccines and refrigerators, generators, and diesel fuel. 50 left-hand drive trucks, with spare parts, were bought in Turkey and flown into Phnom Penh, where the water works were out of action for lack of spare parts and aluminium sulphate. This was supplied. Other consignments included a quarter of a ton of nylon twine for a fishing net factory.

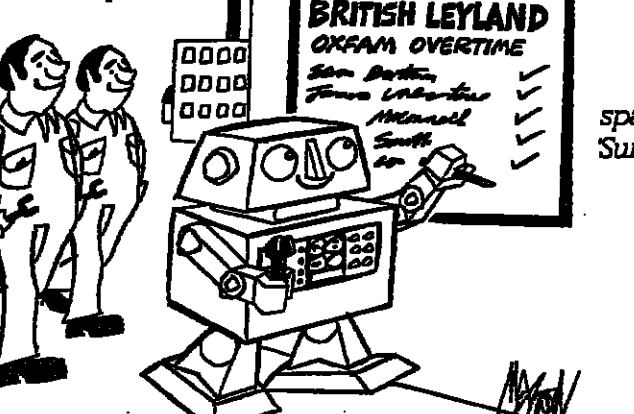
Volunteers had to be drafted in at headquarters to deal with the thousand contributions a day which flooded in. John Pilger's articles and the *Blue Peter* children's television programme were powerful advocates, and £3.5m was raised.

How to avoid giving money to Oxfam.

By being sponsored to wash dishes in a local hotel, Gill Allis raised £200 in two days.

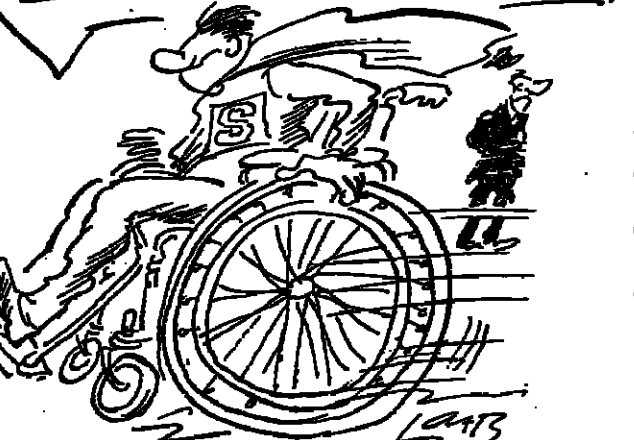


The workers of a British Leyland factory each gave an hour's free labour which resulted in a truck for Kampuchea.



Go round an athletics track in a wheelchair. Severely disabled Joe Hughes from Belfast raised £1,065 this way.

BELFAST 10 MILES



Actress Faith Brown knitted spaghetti for Oxfam as part of a massive appeal by Sunday magazine which has raised over £60,000 so far

Yes. You can help Oxfam without actually parting with hard-earned cash. You, or your company, can give us an interest-free loan instead. Or you can organise a collection. For money, used stamps or waste paper. You could donate blankets and emergency supplies. Or give goods to any of our shops. You can think up any crazy scheme you like - if you can find the sponsors. You can donate your royalties if you're an author. Or your name and goodwill if you're famous. Or your talents free, like the cartoonists here did. You can do a great deal just by remembering Oxfam in your will. If you want to make a personal contribution to the poor of the Third World, we've many suggestions. You don't have to send us a donation. Or make a regular payment by bankers order. We'd be very grateful if you did. Because we can do a great deal with your money. But we could do just as much with your support.



Contact Pat Wise, Room TM23, Oxfam, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ

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Oxfam's

programme in Kampuchea wishes to thank
James Mackie and Sons
of Belfast for their excellent collaboration in
the rebuilding of the Battambang Jute Sack
factory in Kampuchea.

The local production of jute sacks is now
contributing significantly to the production,
storage, and transportation of food for all
Kampuchians.

45 1, Jazzmaster (8-7); 2, Chuckback (5-4
Mv); 3, Prydel (2-1), 8 ran. Woodland Generator
finished 2nd, clng and placed 4th.
15 1, The Surveyor (5-7); 2, Redcrafter (4-1);
London Journal (14-1), 14 ran. The Gulfair
ran 7-2 fav. NFR Spartan Turn.
45 1, Mountain Man (18-1); 2, Sandmoor
Court (8-7); 3, Taurus (11-6), 14 ran. Optimum
4 fav. NFR Covent Garden, Go-Metric,
Pegasus Kashi.

WORKED FIRST TIME
on 12/20/80

Applause for Kinnock on NHS

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

Mr Neil Kinnock scored a resounding success with his parliamentary colleagues yesterday when, in his first Commons speech as Labour leader, he led a fierce assault on the Government's record over the National Health Service.

In one of the most overt displays of enthusiasm seen on the Labour back benches for some time, MPs waved their order papers and loudly cheered Mr Kinnock as he sat down after accusing the Government of deliberately and seriously eroding the health service. He was immediately congratulated by senior colleagues including Mr Denis Healey.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who had decided against speaking in the debate, was on the Government Front Bench as Mr Kinnock said her economic policies meant that opportunities for new and better care and greater saving of lives among children were seen as burdens on public expenditure. At worst, he said, the Government saw pain as an opportunity for commercial exploitation.

He criticized the Prime Minister for not participating in the debate and declared that the health service was the most efficient in the western world and could not be squeezed much harder. "The health service cannot be dismembered by British prime ministers or foreign economists. It is not theirs to get rid of," he said.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, replying to the debate, announced that the Government was providing £9m over the next four years to improve family doctor and community nursing services in the inner-city areas.

Mr Fowler also spoke of new talks with the pharmaceutical industry to achieve further cuts in drug prices. The 2.5 per cent reduction agreed from the beginning of August would save £25m this year.

In talks on the scope for further savings next year the Government would be looking at allowed profits rates and controls on the levels of promotional and advertising expenditure, Mr Fowler said.

Stars pay tribute to David Niven



At the service: Lord Olivier, Douglas Fairbanks Jr, Sir John Mills, Trevor Howard
Below: Anthony Quayle, Sir Richard Attenborough, and David Niven's widow, Hjordia, with son, David Niven Jr



Prince Michael of Kent and the Earl and Countess of Snowdon were among the guests when show business paid its last tribute to David Niven yesterday.

Also, at the thanksgiving service, in St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, were Douglas Fairbanks Jr and Anthony Quayle, who have launched a campaign to raise £250,000 for research into the nerve disease which killed the 73-year-old actor in July.

Lord Olivier gave the reading and Mr Fairbanks said: "This is a service of thanksgiving and gratitude for a man who has given us so much happiness."

Thanksgiving service, page 12

Resistance overcome

Continued from page 1

Most of the evacuees were students from the St George's University Medical School. They were generous in their praise of their rescue and most approved of President Reagan's decision to send in troops, agreeing that political instability had become so great that they feared for their safety.

Mr Jeff Geller said: "The last 10 days have been hectic. They had a shoot-on-sight curfew and we were really scared and confined to our compound. We really did not know what was going on. That was the worst thing."

The two university campuses were the scene of some of the heaviest fighting. Some students helped to treat the Cuban and

Grenadian wounded who were brought into the medical school before it was captured. Later, American wounded started coming in.

Some students kissed the ground when they landed on American soil. "I don't think there's any more beautiful sight than the United States," said Ms Jean Joel. "And the Rangers who arrived to save us."

Some, however, expressed doubts whether the American invasion was really necessary to save their lives.

The invasion was initially strongly criticized by Mr Charles Modica, the American chancellor of the university, who was in New York at the time.

Andropov offer rejected

Continued from page 1

In a lengthy response to Mr Andropov's televised statement on a medium-range missile, the State Department was particularly critical of the proposal to reduce Soviet SS20 medium-range missiles in Europe to approximately 140, or 100 less than the current arsenal.

"The Soviet offer to reduce to 140 missiles in Europe suggests a Soviet recognition that a balance does not now exist and should be established through Soviet reductions," the State Department said.

In addition, State Department officials said they saw little new in the latest offer which indicated that "the Soviets still seek a monopoly on IMF missiles, which would

leave it with some 750 warheads on launchers while the United States has none."

Should the United States and its allies accept the Soviet demand that they delay their own deployment, the balance of power would shift dramatically, the State Department said.

"If the United States and its allies accepted a delay in their own deployment schedule, the Soviet offer would apply only to obsolete SS4 missiles which in any case are being removed, not to SS20s," an official spokesman said.

The State Department appeared to reject altogether the Soviet offer of a freeze, describing it as "a number of loopholes and

Frank Johnson in the Commons

The new captain goes into action

Mr Neil Kinnock realized the dream of every South Wales schoolboy yesterday by declaring for 41 minutes, as captain of the Parliamentary Labour Party, on Tory policy towards the National Health Service.

All through the dark days of the Grenada war, the Welsh people had waited for this moment. Just as others give up drink in wartime, so during that war, which lasted from Tuesday until Thursday, Mr Kinnock made a vow that no sentence of more than a few hundred words would pass his lips.

He did not want to run the risk, in time of armed conflict, of loss of publicity on the subject of the National Health Service. One of the many casualties of the war, in addition to Sir Geoffrey Howe, was the debate on the Opposition motion on the Health Service, which had to be postponed on Wednesday until yesterday. By then, serious peacetime talking matches could resume.

Mr Kinnock showed his class early on with a thousand-word dash in the direction of England's Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, and that was only in the brief remarks which the Leader of the Opposition addresses to the Leader of the House each Thursday afternoon about the business for the coming week.

At that scoring rate, what would this amazing Welshman do to the National Health Service? "I may answer the Right Hon Gentleman's sixth question," Mr Biffen laconically replied. Mr Kinnock smiled.

Even earlier, by way of a warm-up, Mr Kinnock had talked at Mrs Thatcher. This was during Prime Minister's questions. But he was just gently easing himself in with a dozen or so sentences, and a few score sub-clauses, on the old war-time theme of whether Mrs Thatcher would unequivocally praise or condemn the American invasion of Grenada.

She compromised by praising the American invasion of the Dominican Republic. This, she said, was to show that American invasions could bring democracy. It was an argument which had the merit of being true. Unfortunately, for purposes of convincing the Labour Party, the event took place in 1965.

As the phrase has it, the Welshman was now quietly confident - in so far as he could ever be quietly anything. Soon it was time for the big one: the National Health Service. This after all is what the game is all about.

Mr Kinnock rose to a tremendous roar. His famous lovely wife Glenys, who is said to be his sternest critic, who hears all his spontaneous outbursts before a big match and indeed is understood to write many of them, was watching from the gallery. So too, presumably, were coachloads of supporters from the Principality. Those of us unfamiliar with that country assumed that all the strongholds of Welsh windage were represented: Aberllynnydd, Aberavenny! Abn Dhabil!

Soon Mr Kinnock was accusing the Tories of having lied about the Health Service during the election. Only, under the sport's rules, you are not allowed to say an opponent lied. A player has to think up other ways of saying it. The unimaginative ones say "terminological inaccuracy": a move traditionally invented by Winston Churchill, the old English captain.

Yesterday the Welshman countered with a stunning "premeditated falsehood". A Tory backbencher, Mr Tim Smith, came back by demanding of the Speaker whether it was in order to accuse someone of a premeditated falsehood. Only it came out as "premeditated falsehood". Or, at least, Labour backbenchers shouted that that was how it had come out. And, as a result of Mr Kinnock's joyous performance, we were all in such a good mood that the rest of us, apart from Mr Smith, were inclined to believe it.

Mr Kinnock was now unstoppable. Several times he babbled confidently about what the Tories were doing about renal dialysis. It was not clear whether he understood renal dialysis to be the disease or the cure. But it sounded tremendous. He sat down to a huge Labour cheer. "Beat that," they shouted at the Secretary for Social Services, Mr Fowler. He had no chance. Not that Mr Kinnock's opponents begrudged him his triumphant debut, for Mr Roy Hoadley joined in the cheering.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

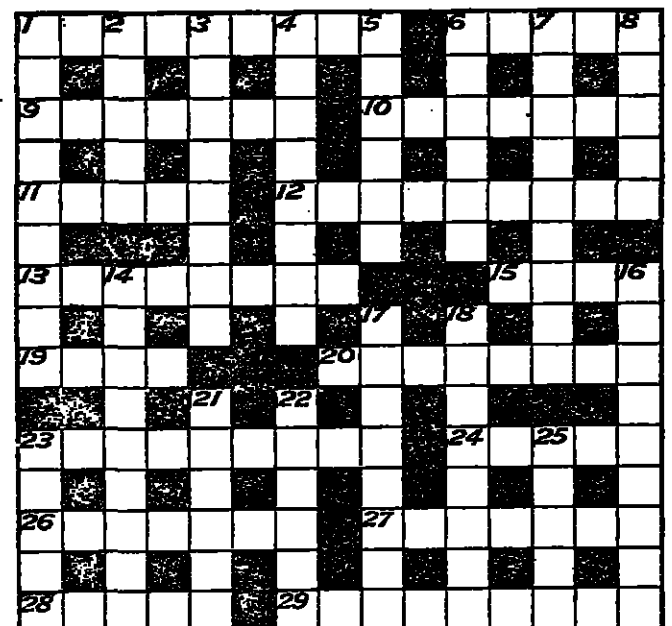
Today's events

Royal engagements
The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, presents the Maritime Heritage Award Medal to the Prince of Wales, on behalf of the Mary Rose Trust, at Buckingham Palace, 11.
The Duke of Edinburgh Grand President, presides at the closing ceremony of the 22nd conference of the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League at the Holiday Inn, Slough, 12.
The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chair-

man of the British Overseas Trade Board, visits the Telecom '83 Exhibition in Geneva; depart Heathrow Airport, 7.45.

Music
Concert by the Bristol Cathedral Festival Orchestra, Bristol Cathedral, College Green, Bristol, 7.30.
Recital by Drostan Hall (violin) and Tricia Catchpole (viola), St John's Church, Woodbridge, 7.30.
Beethoven and his Era Festival: concert by Malcolm Binns (fortepiano), Wills Memorial Building, University of Bristol, 7.30.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,272



ACROSS

- Vessel outside port? (4-5).
- Mocked US military plot (5).
- Browning, is it? Light piece (7).
- Might fall for this trick (7).
- What was behind artistic achievement? (5).
- Songs right to interrupt brutal Russian (9).
- Figures for month - no change in gas, perhaps (8).
- See one's girl (4).
- Strong taste of 14, for a start (4).
- Directs attention to calls in back bar (6,2).
- Deviation of ball leads to county collapse (9).
- Light recorder? (5).
- They clearly depend on cold days (7).
- Mount - fully I provided for Asian (7).
- One type recollected for saintly quality (5).
- It follows article FO put in about twice (9).

DOWN

- Exhausted, so abandoned (6, 3).
- What's good news out West? That makes Roman's day (5).
- Birds old criminals collected (8).
- Treating Crichton with due respect (8).

Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow
CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 8

Concert by the Philharmonia Orchestra, Royal Concert Hall, Theatre Square, Nottingham, 7.30.
Concert by the Gainsborough Consort, Brent Leigh Village Hall, Lavenham, Suffolk, 7.30.
Organ concert by Jean Langlais with Marie-Louise Langlais, Christ Church, Oxford, 8.
Concert by the Scottish National Orchestra, Usher Hall, Edinburgh, 7.30.
Harpichord recital by Sharon Gould, Holburne Museum, Great Pultney Street, Bath, 7.30.

General
Halloween Fair, Pavilion, North Parade Road, Bath, 10 to 11.30.
Exhibitions in progress
Photographs by Don McAllister at Stills, 105, High St, Edinburgh, 1 Tues to Sat 12.30 - 6 (ends Nov 5).
The Elements of Industry, Water, at the Museum and Art Gallery, Kirkcaldy, Fife, Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Nov 5).
21 Years of Important Acquisitions: purchases and gifts from permanent collection and the Garnets and the Spinney of Bowness, Abbot Hall Art Gallery and Museum, Lakeland, 1.56, Kendal, Cumbria, Mon to Fri 10.30 to 5.30, Sat and Sun 2 to 5 (ends Nov 6).

Anniversaries
Births: Ivan Turgenev (Nov 8 new style), Orel, Russia, 1818; Evelyn Waugh, London, 1903; Deaths: John W. Mauchly, mathematician, Oxford, 1903; John Locke, philosopher - author of *Two Treatises on Government* which argued the ultimate sovereignty of the people, used to justify the Glorious Revolution, and an influence on the American Revolution - Oates, 1704; Columbus discovered Cuba, 1492; The Statue of Liberty, New York, was dedicated, 1886; "Black Tuesday" on the New York Stock Exchange, 1929. Today is the Feast of Sts Simon and Jude, two of the Apostles. Luke 16 refers to the former as "Simon called Zelotes" and the latter as "Judas the brother of James". Jude is often invoked by persons who are in difficulties. They are supposed to have spread the Gospel in Persia, where both were martyred.

Clean Air jubilee
The National Society for Clean Air is to hold its 50th annual conference in Torquay from Monday, October 31 to November 3. Topics and exhibitions are to include air pollution control in Britain, acid rain, odours, straw and scum burning, noise and major industrial hazards. Details from the society at 136, North Street, Brighton BN1 1RG (tel. 0273-26313).

Parliament today
Commons (9.30): Debate on the Civil Service.

COMPUTER COMPETITION

WEEK SEVEN DAY 4

Top films

- Top box-office films in London:
- (1) The Juggler/Mickey's Christmas Carol
 - (2) National Lampoon's Vacation
 - (3) Zelig
 - (4) Class
 - (5) Travels
 - (6) Staying Alive
 - (7) Octopussy
 - (8) Spacehunter: Adventures in the Forbidden Zone
 - (9) War Games
 - (10) Betrayal
- The top five in the provinces:
- 1 War Games
 - 2 Staying Alive
 - 3 Porky's II: The Next Day
 - 4 Something Wild
 - 5 Superman III

Food prices

Vegetables this winter seem certain to be scarcer and more expensive than last, though acute shortages are unlikely. The British Farm Product Council reports that about the quality either, although the wet September and warm sunny weather this month has helped to mitigate the effects of the drought in July and August by encouraging late maturing.

Potatoes, about 15p a lb, may tend to be small and show signs of scab, but this does not affect taste or food value. Brussels sprouts are of good quality but supplies are about a fifth down on last year. Cabbages and cauliflower are also fewer, but leeks and root vegetables are reported to have done fairly well. Most growers are now too confident about the quality either, although the wet September and warm sunny weather this month has helped to mitigate the effects of the drought in July and August by encouraging late maturing.

Supplies of home-produced lamb are being held back and prices are expected to increase. At present whole leg is £1.25 to £1.60 a lb and whole shoulder 70p to £1.05. New Zealand lamb is a few pence cheaper in most shops. Teapo, for example, have leg at £1.38, shoulder at 68p and chops at 98p.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	1.69	1.61
Austria Sch	28.75	27.15
Belgium Fr	63.25	79.25
Canada \$	1.90	1.83
Denmark Kr	14.70	14.90
Finland Mk	8.82	8.42
France Fr	12.36	11.88
Germany DM	4.65	3.86
Greece Dr	157.00	167.00
Hongkong \$	1.79	1.66
Ireland Pt	1.30	1.25
Italy Lira	2460.00	347.00
Japan Yen	366.00	347.00
Netherlands Gld	4.57	4.34
Norway Kr	11.50	10.90
Portugal Esc	200.00	187.00
South Africa Rd	1.70	1.66
Spain Ptas	234.50	225.50
Sweden Kr	12.12	11.55
Switzerland Fr	3.36	3.13
USA \$	1.54	1.49
Yugoslavia Dnr	215.00	200.00

Notes for small denomination bank notes only.
Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency issues.
Retail Price Index: 339.5.
at London. The FT index closed up 4 at 694.0.

Roads

Midlands: A38: Contrailow at Alrewas, Staffordshire. M6: Northbound carriageway closed for two miles through and to the south of junction 2 (Coventry East/M69); north bound exit at junction 2 closed. M54: Several lane closures at Telford by-pass; diversion at junction 5.
North: A575: Complete closure of Buxton Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire, between Commercial Road and French Avenue; diversion signposted. M1: Northbound carriageway closed between junction 38 and 39 (Gloucestershire to Wakefield); contra flow. Queensway tunnel, Liverpool, closed tonight; all traffic diverted via the Liverpool Wallasey Tunnel, 9.15 pm-5.45 am.
Wales and West: A476: Temporary traffic lights at Woodford, Wiltshire. A47: Temporary traffic lights working 24 hours a day at Tal-y-Llwyd at Gwynedd. M4: All traffic sharing west bound carriageway between junction 20, Almondsbury and 21, Severn Bridge; long delays in both directions.
Scotland: A8: Resurfacing work with temporary signals in Inchinnan Road, Renfrew. A76: Single-lane traffic lights south of A719 junction near Kilmarnock, Ayrshire. Information supplied by AA.

Best wines ...

In a blind tasting of Chianti Pisto wine, an expert panel judged the following to be the best available: Capezzone Riserva 1978, from Stonehaven Wines, Bordon, Hants; Villa di Verdicchio 1980, from Grapevine, London; Poggio Romita Riserva 1977, from Stonehaven; Castello di Poggio Riserva 1978, from Cynthus Baco; South Harting, Hants; Castello di Montepulciano 1980, from Ellis Son and Vidler, London SW1 and Hastings.
Source: Wine & Spirit, October.

and vintage cheese

The first batch of genuine Blue Vinney cheese to have been marketed for some two decades is now on sale at Wells Stores, Straley, Reading, Berkshire. It was made on the Ashley Chase Estate, Winterbourne Abbas, near Dorchester, by Dr J. G. Davies a consultant. Blue Vinney sold in Dorset in recent years was provided to be rejected. S.W. RY

The papers

International press reaction to the "United States" invasion of Grenada. The Amsterdam daily De Telegraaf commented: "From an international point of view, there are dubious aspects to the invasion of Grenada. The political wisdom of this action can also be questioned, because President Reagan has given fuel to diverse anti-American circles."

The Asahi Shinbun of Tokyo described the invasion as "nothing but military intervention, which the United Nations charter bans. We demand that the United States withdraw its troops as early as possible."

The Times of New Delhi, said "no one can possibly be impressed by the explanation the US Administration has offered for its invasion. Grenada is a victory on the cheap."

Weather

A showery northerly airstream will cover British Isles as an anticyclone approaches western Ireland.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, central S, SW England: Cloudy with rain in places at first, becoming mainly dry with sunny periods 9 to 10C (48 to 50F).
East Angles, E England: Sunny intervals and showers; wind N fresh; max temp 9 or 10C (48 to 50F).
E W Midlands, central N England: Mainly dry with sunny periods; wind N moderate; max temp 9 or 10C (48 to 50F).
S Wales, NW England, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland: Sunny periods, a few showers on exposed coasts and hills, drying out later; wind N, moderate or fresh; max temp 9 or 10C (48 to 50F).
Lake District, Edinburgh, Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll: Sunny intervals, scattered showers, windy on hills, drying out later; wind NW moderate or fresh; max temp 8 or 9C (46 to 48F).
NE England, Berkshire: Sunny intervals and showers, windy on hills; wind N fresh; max temp 8 or 9C (46 to 48F).
Aberdeen, central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals; windy showers, becoming less frequent later; wind NW fresh or strong; max temp 6 or 7C (43 to 45F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Becoming mainly dry with overnight frost and cold fog patches, but turning cloudier and milder in N Scotland with light rain or drizzle by Sunday.
SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind NW fresh or strong, becoming moderate or strong, sea slight, becoming moderate. St George's Channel: Wind N fresh or strong mainly fair; sea slight to moderate. Irish Sea: Wind N fresh or strong backing W and moderating later; sea slight or moderate.

Sun rises: Sun sets:
6.46am 4.42pm
Last quarter tomorrow.

Lighting-up time
London 5.12 pm to 6.18 am
Edinburgh 5.13 pm to 6.23 am
Newcastle 5.13 pm to 6.27 am
Preston 5.37 pm to 6.38 am

Yesterday
Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.
C F C F
Belfast 10.1 50 Glasgow 11.2 54
Birmingham 11.1 52 Liverpool 11.5 53
Bristol 12.2 54 London 13.5 56
Cardiff 11.1 52 Leeds 11.5 53
Edinburgh 10.4 50 Manchester 11.2 52
Glasgow 11.5 53 Newcastle 12.2 54

Highest and lowest
Yesterday: Highest day temp: Hastings, 16C (60F); lowest day temp: Llandudno, 9C (48F); highest night temp: Llandudno, 10C (50F); lowest night temp: Llandudno, 8C (46F).

London
Yesterday: Temp: min 5 to 6 in E, 10C (50F); max 6 to 7 in E, 10C (50F). Humidity: 6 pm, 74 per cent; Rain: 8.4 to 8.6 pm, 0.1 in; 8.6 to 8.8 pm, 0.1 in; 8.8 to 9.0 pm, 0.1 in; 9.0 to 9.2 pm, 0.1 in; 9.2 to 9.4 pm, 0.1 in; 9.4 to 9.6 pm, 0.1 in; 9.6 to 9.8 pm, 0.1 in; 9.8 to 10.0 pm, 0.1 in; 10.0 to 10.2 pm, 0.1 in; 10.2 to 10.4 pm, 0.1 in; 10.4 to 10.6 pm, 0.1 in; 10.6 to 10.8 pm, 0.1 in; 10.8 to 11.0 pm, 0.1 in; 11.0 to 11.2 pm, 0.1 in; 11.2 to 11.4 pm, 0.1 in; 11.4 to 11.6 pm, 0.1 in; 11.6 to 11.8 pm, 0.1 in; 11.8 to 12.0 pm, 0.1 in; 12.0 to 12.2 pm, 0.1 in; 12.2 to 12.4 pm, 0.1 in; 12.4 to 12.6 pm, 0.1 in; 12.6 to 12.8 pm, 0.1 in; 12.8 to 13.0 pm, 0.1 in; 13.0 to 13.2 pm, 0.1 in; 13.2 to 13.4 pm, 0.1 in; 13.4 to 13.6 pm, 0.1 in; 13.6 to 13.8 pm, 0.1 in; 13.8 to 14.0 pm, 0.1 in; 14.0 to 14.2 pm, 0.1 in; 14.2 to 14.4 pm, 0.1 in; 14.4 to 14.6 pm, 0.1 in; 14.6 to 14.8 pm, 0.1 in; 14.8 to 15.0 pm, 0.1 in; 15.0 to 15.2 pm, 0.1 in; 15.2 to 15.4 pm, 0.1 in; 15.4 to 15.6 pm, 0.1 in; 15.6 to 15.8 pm, 0.1 in; 15.8 to 16.0 pm, 0.1 in; 16.0 to 16.2 pm, 0.1 in; 16.2 to 16.4 pm, 0.1 in; 16.4 to 16.6 pm, 0.1 in; 16.6 to 16.8 pm, 0.1 in; 16.8 to 17.0 pm, 0.1 in; 17.0 to 17.2 pm, 0.1 in; 17.2 to 17.4 pm, 0.1 in; 17.4 to 17.6 pm, 0.1 in; 17.6 to 17.8 pm, 0.1 in; 17.8 to 18.0 pm, 0.1 in; 18.0 to 18.2 pm, 0.1 in; 18.2 to 18.4 pm, 0.1 in; 18.4 to 18.6 pm, 0.1 in; 18.6 to 18.8 pm, 0.1 in; 18.8 to 19.0 pm, 0.1 in; 19.0 to 19.2 pm, 0.1 in; 19.2 to 19.4 pm, 0.1 in; 19.4 to 19.6 pm, 0.1 in; 19.6 to 19.8 pm, 0.1 in; 19.8 to 20.0 pm, 0.1 in; 20.0 to 20.2 pm, 0.1 in; 20.2 to 20.4 pm, 0.1 in; 20.4 to 20.6 pm, 0.1 in; 20.6 to 20.8 pm, 0.1 in; 20.8 to 21.0 pm, 0.1 in; 21.0 to 21.2 pm, 0.1 in; 21.2 to 21.4 pm, 0.1 in; 21.4 to 21.6 pm, 0.1 in; 21.6 to 21.8 pm, 0.1 in; 21.8 to 22.0 pm, 0.1 in; 22.0 to 22.2 pm, 0.1 in; 22.2 to 22.4 pm, 0.1 in; 22.4 to 22.6 pm, 0.1 in; 22.6 to 22.8 pm, 0.1 in; 22.8 to 23.0 pm, 0.1 in; 23.0 to 23.2 pm, 0.1 in; 23.2 to 23.4 pm, 0.1 in; 23.4 to 23.6 pm, 0.1 in; 23.6 to 23.8 pm, 0.1 in; 23.8 to 24.0 pm, 0.1 in; 24.0 to 24.2 pm, 0.1 in; 24.2 to 24.4 pm, 0.1 in; 24.4 to 24.6 pm, 0.1 in; 24.6 to 24.8 pm, 0.1 in; 24.8 to 25.0 pm, 0.1 in; 25.0 to 25.2 pm, 0.1 in; 25.2 to 25.4 pm, 0.1 in; 25.4 to 25.6 pm, 0.1 in; 25.6 to 25.8 pm, 0.1 in; 25.8 to 26.0 pm, 0.1 in; 26.0 to 26.2 pm, 0.1 in; 26.2 to 26.4 pm, 0.1 in; 26.4 to 26.6 pm, 0.1 in; 26.6 to 26.8 pm, 0.1 in; 26.8 to 27.0 pm, 0.1 in; 27.0 to 27.2 pm, 0.1 in; 27.2 to 27.4 pm, 0.1 in; 27.4 to 27.6 pm, 0.1 in; 27.6 to 27.8 pm, 0.1 in; 27.8 to 28.0 pm, 0.1 in; 28.0 to 28.2 pm, 0.1 in; 28.2 to 28.4 pm, 0.1 in; 28.4 to 28.6 pm, 0.1 in; 28.6 to 28.8 pm, 0.1 in; 28.8 to 29.0 pm, 0.1 in; 29.0 to 29.2 pm, 0.1 in; 29.2 to 29.4 pm, 0.1 in; 29.4 to 29.6 pm, 0.1 in; 29.6 to 29.8 pm, 0.1 in; 29.8 to 30.0 pm, 0.1 in; 30.0 to 30.2 pm, 0.1 in; 30.2 to 30.4 pm, 0.1 in; 30.4 to 30.6 pm, 0.1 in; 30.6 to 30.8 pm, 0.1 in; 30.8 to 31.0 pm, 0.1 in; 31.0 to 31.2 pm, 0.1 in; 31.2 to 31.4 pm, 0.1 in; 31.4 to 31.6 pm, 0.1 in; 31.6 to 31.8 pm, 0.1 in; 31.8 to 32.0 pm, 0.1 in; 32.0 to 32.2 pm, 0.1 in; 32.2 to 32.4 pm, 0.1 in; 32.4 to 32.6 pm, 0.1 in; 32.6 to 32.8 pm, 0.1 in; 32.8 to 33.0 pm, 0.1 in; 33.0 to 33.2 pm, 0.1 in; 33.2 to 33.4 pm, 0.1 in; 33.4 to 33.6 pm, 0.1 in; 33.6 to 33.8 pm, 0.1 in; 33.8 to 34.0 pm, 0.1 in; 34.0 to 34.2 pm, 0.1 in; 34.2 to 34.4 pm, 0.1 in; 34.4 to 34.6 pm, 0.1 in; 34.6 to 34.8 pm, 0.1 in; 34.8 to 35.0 pm, 0.1 in; 35.0 to 35.2 pm, 0.1 in; 35.2 to 35.4 pm, 0.1 in; 35.4 to 35.6 pm, 0.1 in; 35.6 to 35.8 pm, 0.1 in; 35.8 to 36.0 pm, 0.1 in; 36.0 to 36.2 pm, 0.1 in; 36.2 to 36.4 pm, 0.1 in; 36.4 to 36.6 pm, 0.1 in; 36.6 to 36.8 pm, 0.1 in; 36.8 to 37.0 pm, 0.1 in; 37.0 to 37.2 pm, 0.1 in; 37.2 to 37.4 pm, 0.1 in; 37.4 to 37.6 pm, 0.1 in; 37.6 to 37.8 pm, 0.1 in; 37.8 to 38.0 pm, 0.1 in; 38.0 to 38.2 pm, 0.1 in; 38.2 to 38.4 pm, 0.1 in; 38.4 to 38.6 pm, 0.1 in; 38.6 to 38.8 pm, 0.1 in; 38.8 to 39.0 pm, 0.1 in; 39.0 to 39.2 pm, 0.1 in; 39.2 to 39.4 pm, 0.1 in; 39.4 to 39.6 pm, 0.1 in; 39.6 to 39.8 pm, 0.1 in; 39.8 to 40.0 pm, 0.1 in; 40.0 to 40.2 pm, 0.1 in; 40.2 to 40.4 pm, 0.1 in; 40.4